

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL PARKS AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS BILL

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce today the Golden Gate National Parks and Technical Corrections bill. Our National Parks are some of America's greatest treasures, and they have been designated that way to ensure they are preserved for our future generations. In California, we are very proud of our Golden Gate National Recreation Area, with parks spanning across San Mateo, San Francisco and Marin Counties. They are a national treasure deserving of the highest National Park Service designation which this legislation will ensure. The Golden Gate National Parks offer a unique historical perspective on the story of California and the Nation, and unparalleled natural beauty in an unlikely setting close to a major metropolitan area.

One hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt declared Muir Woods the Nation's tenth National Monument to honor the conservationist John Muir and preserve a beautiful natural space. Today, I would like to recognize the establishment of the Golden Gate National Parks, which will contain the Muir Woods National Monument, as the 59th National Park. In honor of renowned environmentalist Edgar Waybum, and my friend and predecessor in Congress, the late Congressman Phillip Burton, who dedicated their careers and lives to preserving these remarkable natural and historical spaces for our and future generations to enjoy, I dedicate this bill.

The Golden Gate National Parks offer residents of and visitors to the San Francisco Bay Area the opportunity to escape from the city and connect with nature and our Nation's history. The Golden Gate National Parks are home to sites utilized by the Coastal Miwok and Ohlone people, the Spanish missionaries and military, Mexican settlers, Gold Rush prospectors, and Civil War military units. There remain many historic sites preserved within the Parks, including the Cliff House Restaurant and the Suto Baths in San Francisco, as well as decommissioned army bases and fortifications dating back to 1776 and used by our Nation from the Civil War to the Cold War. This bill will strengthen the ability of the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park and the Presidio, two of the Golden Gate National Parks, most historic areas, to preserve historic spaces and provide world-class services to visitors from throughout the world.

The Golden Gate National Parks also offer visitors access to an amazingly diverse natural area. Encompassing almost 60 miles of bay and ocean shoreline, the Golden Gate National Parks contain windswept beaches, salt-water marshes, stunning cliffs, and the world's only coastal old-growth redwood forest. The Parks contain expansive forests and coastal

lands, such as Sweeney Ridge in San Mateo County and Muir Woods in Marin. There is also an abundance of plant and animal life in the Parks with over 1,200 identified plant and animal species, including 33 threatened and endangered species.

In the years since the establishment of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area almost 40 years ago, the park units have collectively been referred to as Golden Gate National Parks. As natural and historic sites have been added to this park system the need has grown to recognize the system of parks for what they are, which is one of our Nation's great natural treasures. This bill recognizes the importance of Golden Gate National Parks to the history and future of our Nation and rewards it with a designation befitting its place among the most spectacular National Parks in our Nation.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF LEESBURG

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the historic Town of Leesburg in the 10th Congressional District of Virginia.

Leesburg was established in September 1758 by an act of the Virginia House of Burgesses who appointed Nicolas Minor to design the initial layout of the town. The Town of Leesburg quickly grew from a quiet town of sleepy streets to a bustling epicenter in the early 18th century. Settlers flocked to the town for its strong sense of community and numerous market-to-town opportunities. The agriculture and transportation industries grew as Leesburg became the center of commerce in Loudoun County and other regions of northern Virginia.

Leesburg was the temporary capital of the United States during the War of 1812 and also served as a battleground during the American Civil War in the Battle of Balls Bluff. Leesburg has been home to many prominent Americans including President James Monroe, noted African-American attorney Charles Houston, General George C. Marshall and entertainer Arthur Godfrey.

In 1970, Leesburg received a place in the National Register of Historic Places and was cited as one of the best and most picturesque downtowns in Virginia. Today, Leesburg maintains its status as the center of the crossroads of northern Virginia and is the largest town in northern Virginia. I encourage my colleagues to join me in celebrating this historic event by driving 40 miles northwest from the Capitol to visit historic Leesburg and partake in some of the town's year-long festivities in honor of the anniversary. The town is holding a flag-design contest in honor of this historic event, to design an official flag for the town. On September 14, 2008, the town will celebrate her

250th birthday and I invite all to attend to commemorate history and enjoy the distinctly Americana spirit of the day's activities.

I have been proud to serve the people of Leesburg since the start of my terms in the House and I share in the town's celebration of this significant anniversary.

TRANS-ATLANTIC LEGISLATORS DIALOGUE—64TH MEETING OF DELEGATIONS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEET UNDER LEADERSHIP OF THE HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues in the Congress to another successful meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) that was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from May 24–26, 2008. The United States delegation continues to flourish under the outstanding leadership of Chairwoman SHELLEY BERKLEY, the gentlelady from Nevada. She has injected energy and enthusiasm into this interparliamentary dialogue, while further strengthening American relationships with a wide range of European parliamentarians. The Republican vice-chairman, Representative CLIFF STEARNS from Florida, has also maintained an effective voice in European affairs and the TLD.

Representatives BERKLEY and STEARNS should be praised for their efforts to recruit members to participate in the Slovenia session, with the delegation of 10 members being the largest and by all reports most well informed in recent years. I commend the members of this bipartisan delegation—Rep. GARY ACKERMAN (D-NY), Rep. JOE BARTON (R-TX), Rep. RUSS CARNAHAN (D-MO), Rep. ELIOT ENGEL (D-NY), Rep. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE (D-TX), Rep. PHIL GINGREY (R-GA), Rep. STEVE ISRAEL (D-NY), and Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ (D-CA)—for contributing to a rich and meaningful exchange of views.

The TLD serves as the formal response of the European Parliament and the U.S. Congress to the commitment in the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) of 1995 to enhance legislative ties between the European Union and the United States. Building on the existing interparliamentary relationship, the TLD involves bi-annual meetings between American and European legislators in order to discuss topics of mutual interest and foster transatlantic discourse.

The most recent session in Slovenia addressed a wide range of foreign policy challenges, including the Middle East, China, Russia, and Kosovo. Members discussed regulatory initiatives being undertaken by the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), with American members reinforcing Administration

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

concerns about European initiatives on poultry and chemicals used to manufacture cosmetics that have a detrimental effect on American farmers and producers. American members also responded to European concerns about the visa waiver program and legislation requiring 100% cargo scanning to ensure port security. In addition, the delegates discussed the challenge of climate change, the importance of energy security, and the current global financial crisis.

Madam Speaker, I would like to place in the RECORD the joint statement that was agreed upon by American and European legislators at the 64th TLD meeting in Ljubljana. It underscores the rich agenda of this meeting and highlights the many areas in which there was strong transatlantic agreement.

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATOR'S DIALOGUE—
64TH MEETING OF DELEGATIONS FROM THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE UNITED
STATES, LJUBLJANA, 24–26 MAY 2008 JOINT
STATEMENT

We, Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 64th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 24–26 May 2008.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 5–8 October 2007, we stressed the importance of regular dialogue on a range of political, social and economic issues that affect all of our citizens. We agreed to report back to our parent bodies on the content and outcome of our discussions, particularly in the areas where joint efforts are likely to result in positive outcomes. We agreed that legislators in both sides of the Atlantic should increase dialogue and consultation amongst themselves in order to prevent possible conflicts of legislation. Direct and timely contacts between specialist committees from Congress and the European Parliament—such as those that have occurred within the TLD framework—have been valuable means of reinforcing cooperation; this exchange of information should be continued and enhanced.

We examined a wide array of foreign policy issues, agreeing that joint action by the European Union and the United States is the most effective way to approach problems that affect both sides of the Atlantic. We took stock of recent developments with regard to the Middle East Peace process, the nuclear threat posed by Iran and the situation in Iraq. On Afghanistan, we recognized the need for a joint long-term strategy aimed at stabilizing the internal situation and reducing risks for regional security. We noted a proposal to develop a joint fund for humanitarian services and infrastructure development in Afghanistan. We discussed the future political and economical development in Kosovo, and recognized that joint efforts were essential in order to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for the Western Balkans, including an EU perspective. We analyzed development in Russia's domestic and foreign policies, including the U.S. Administration's proposed missile defense plans as well as European efforts to diversify their energy supply and ensure their energy security. We also assessed our economic and political relationship with China, expressing concern over recent events in Tibet.

The dialogue focused on the ongoing discussions between the U.S. and the EU in order to extend access to the U.S. Visa Waiver programme in the future to all EU Member States, as well as to the importance of ensuring safe trade and port security.

We also discussed the current global financial crisis. We agreed on the need for contin-

ued discussion and joint actions to address the effects of climate change.

With regard to the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), we noted with satisfaction the engagement of the TLD on 13 May 2008 with TEC Co-Chairs Gunther Verheugen and Dan Price in the framework of the 'Advisory group'. The European Parliament Resolution on the TEC and the letter by the U.S. TLD leadership to the TEC formed the basis for this dialogue. We took note of the EU–U.S. High Level Regulatory Forum, the joint reports on strengthening cooperation regarding the safety of imported products, and the impact assessment guidelines. We advocated stronger involvement of legislators in contributing to and overseeing these initiatives. We supported the identification of compatible biofuels standards in order to achieve international harmonization at the level of international standards organizations. We also welcomed the joint statement on open investment, as well as the start of the second phase of negotiations for the air services agreement.

We welcome the fact that the TEC has become a permanent feature of the EU/U.S. relations. We also welcome the decision taken on 13 May 2008 to develop a short term agenda and long term roadmap for TEC activities, and consider that this represents an important step towards ensuring the continuity of the process. As we have done throughout the establishment and initial meetings of the TEC, we continue to assert that the TEC initiative should be characterized by transparency and consultation of stakeholders and we call on the EU and U.S. Administration to reinforce the flow of information to the TLD in advance of the TEC meetings. Awareness of the transatlantic impact of proposed legislation and regulations should be developed in the relevant legislative and regulatory bodies, as well as information about the benefits of rapid advancements towards a barrier-free regulatory environment.

Several items have been identified within the TEC agenda that require further legislative consideration: While achieving reciprocity and mutual recognition of security standards remains critically important, we call on the U.S. Congress to review their legislation requiring 100 percent cargo scanning in recognition of European concerns regarding this legislation. We call on the European Parliament to facilitate an early solution to the ongoing discussions on the ban on imports into the EU of U.S. poultry which has undergone pathogen reduction treatment. In regards to the EU's regulation on the registration of chemicals (REACH) we call on the European Commission to bring forward legislation ensuring that European and U.S. producers of cosmetics are treated equitably in their requirement to register substances used in their products with the EU's chemical agency.

Finally, we welcome progress on items contained in the 'lighthouse projects' and related initiatives included in the 2007 Summit declaration. In particular, we call for: Steps towards allowing the use in the United States of suppliers' declarations of conformity for electrical, electronic and ICT products; Further progress towards the mutual recognition of U.S. GAAP and EU IFRS accounting standards; Discussion of U.S. and EU regulatory issues in the insurance sector, in order to enhance market access for brokers-dealers, exchanges and other trading systems; and Progress in other areas of regulatory cooperation, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and animal testing.

In conclusion, both sides renewed their commitment to make the TLD's work more relevant to the European Parliament and to the United States House of Representatives.

We agreed to identify ways by which to reinforce the involvement of the TLD and our legislatures in the preparation of the EU/U.S. Summit. We also agreed to further improve the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realize the full potential of our interparliamentary relationship.

JONATHAN EVANS, MEP,
*Chairman, European
Parliament Delegation.*

BENOIT HAMON, MEP,
*Vice Chairman, European
Parliament Delegation.*

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY,
*Chairwoman, U.S.
Congress Delegation.*

HON. CLIFF STEARNS,
*Vice Chairman (Ranking
Republican),
U.S. Congress Delegation.*

HON. GARY ACKERMAN,
*Vice Chairman, U.S.
Congress Delegation.*

HONORING JACK DOWNEY, UNITED
STATES COAST GUARD MASTER
CHIEF BOATSWAIN'S MATE

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the exemplary career of a distinguished member of the United States Coast Guard, and a good friend of mine—Master Chief Boatswain's Mate John E. "Jack" Downey, Ancient Keeper.

Jack Downey has led an exemplary career, having served in the United States Coast Guard for over 40 years. His familiarity with the treacherous local waters around Cape Cod is legendary. He has brought that knowledge to a wide variety of operational, command, and staff assignments over the years, including five Officer-In-Charge multi-mission ashore assignments, two Officer-In-Charge afloat assignments, and a position as a rescue boat crewman for water take-offs and landings.

In 1984, he served as Officer-In-Charge at Station Woods Hole. After a stint in command of Coast Guard Cutter *Towline*, a 65-foot harbor tug/icebreaker, Jack returned to the Cape to take control of Coast Guard Station Chatham, which is located on the elbow of Cape Cod. In Chatham, as my friend and colleague Mr. OBERSTAR already noted, upon taking command, Jack faced a fishing community that had lost faith in the Coast Guard. In a very short period of time, Jack made the Chatham station one of the finest in the Coast Guard and quickly won the respect of the entire Cape Cod fishing community. Downey would also serve as Officer-In-Charge of Station Brant Point in Nantucket and would eventually return to Woods Hole in 2005 to take command of Coast Guard Cutter *Hammerhead*.

It is without question that Jack has served honorably in all of his assignments and has been given numerous awards. Most notably, Jack became the first recipient of the Joshua James Keeper Award—the "Ancient Keeper", which is given to Coast Guard members in recognition of their longevity of service and their outstanding performance in boat forces

operations. Joshua James, referred to as the world's most celebrated lifesaver, rescued over 600 people during his 60 years of service in the 1800s. Jack embodies the traits of Joshua James—traits that all Coast Guardsmen aspire to.

Additionally, the Coast Guard presented to Jack the Meritorious Service Medal with a gold star and operational distinguishing device, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal with three gold stars and operational distinguishing device, and the Letter of Commendation with operational distinguishing device. Jack was also awarded the prestigious Navy League Douglas A. Munro Award for his inspirational leadership and professional competence.

A friend of mine, Retired Rear Admiral Jack Linnon, once called Jack Downey an Officer-in-Charge that he would entrust his own child to; a fact that is especially touching considering the dangers of the profession. "Youngsters turned over to his charge," Linnon said, "when transferred, had grown both in their professional development but also in maturity." Jack's greatest legacy may not be his personal heroics, but the wisdom, guidance and experience he has shared with innumerable Coast Guardsmen, from cadets to commanders.

Since 2006, Jack has served as the District One Command Master Chief at the First District Headquarters in Boston. By leaving this position, the Coast Guard loses one of its finest, most talented men. He has earned the respect and admiration from us and from people throughout New England. On behalf of a very grateful constituency, I want to say thank you to Jack and congratulations on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH LAFFMAN

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Keith Laffman on his eight years of dedicated service to the Office of the Attending Physician (OAP). Prior to his position at the OAP, Keith served as a physical therapist in the United States Navy, training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas, and then stationed at the Bethesda Navy Medical Center.

Working as a Physical Therapy Technician in the OAP since November of 2000, Keith has consistently maintained close working relationships with the patients he serves. His dedication to his work and patients, along with his ability to organize and manage, made him a competent and effective office manager during much of his tenure at the OAP.

Keith is an integral part of the team in the Attending Physician's office. As a person who has broken many bones and suffered multiple injuries, I can attest to the fact that Keith is one of the most professional, caring, and healing physical therapists I have ever worked with during my time as a patient. In addition to providing basic care to a wide variety of patients, the Office of Attending Physician provides a broad spectrum of services, including emergency evaluations, flu vaccinations, physician referrals, and occupational exams and certifications. Eight separate health units in Con-

gressional and other federal buildings ensure that the OAP is able to provide convenient and quality health care around the Hill.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor Keith Laffman for his committed service to his patients, from visitors and staff to high ranking government officials. It is with great pride that I congratulate Keith for his work at the Office of Attending Physician and his continued exemplary service to our Nation.

HONORING FLORESTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Floresta Elementary School of Port St. Lucie, Florida. The National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project Youth Award has selected Floresta Elementary as Florida's Rookie Elementary School of the Year. Floresta was also selected as a Finalist for Rookie of the Year Elementary School at the National Level for 2008.

Floresta Elementary's school-wide project, "Floresta Dolphins NEED Energy," gave students from kindergarten through the fifth grade the opportunity to learn about renewable and non-renewable energy resources. Students in the fifth grade specifically focused on wind energy and worked to increase community awareness regarding Florida Power and Light's wind turbine project on the local coastline. The entire school also took part in Energy Star's Change a Light, Change the World campaign that encourages citizens to conserve energy by switching to more energy efficient light bulbs.

I am proud that the teachers, staff, and students of Floresta Elementary School are working to educate themselves and their community on what we can do to meet our country's critical energy needs.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Floresta Elementary School.

THE DAILY 45: IT'S THE NATION'S PROBLEM

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. The reflections I continue to share happen in communities big and small, everyday, all across our nation. Like Chicago, the city of Los Angeles is having its own unprecedented wave of deadly gun violence.

Earlier this month, during the weekend of June 7 and 8, the Los Angeles Times reported that 14 people lost their lives to violence with most of those dying at the hands of a gun. That's 14 people who lost their lives in one weekend in only 48 hours! Why no national outrage over this senseless violence? Even though the headlines read that many of these deaths "appear to be gang-related," those

who died—regardless of their age, their economic status or their race—are children of God. They had lives that mattered to somebody. They certainly mattered to me.

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say 'enough is enough, stop the killing!'

THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2008

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, the advancement of technology over the last 20 years has revolutionized daily life for Americans. Most of us use some form of technology every day. Cell phones, computers, iPods, webcasts, and televisions are everywhere.

User-friendly technology is also important for people with disabilities. Televisions, computers, and cellular devices are available to the public at-large, but, unlike the "plain old telephone" there are no requirements to ensure that every American is able to use them. Technology can enable the disabled with things like specialized hardware that simulates the human voice reading the computer screen. Assistive or adaptive technology has taken down many barriers to education and employment for disabled Americans. The technology is there, and now we need to encourage its national availability.

Alice Marshall is a mother of two from Albuquerque, New Mexico. She works for the Bureau of Land Management and when she was watching the news a few weeks ago, northern areas of New Mexico were receiving warnings of possible tornados in the area. She was not aware of this news because it was scrolling across the emergency ticker at the bottom of the screen and Alice is blind. The only audio descriptor technology available to her has to be ordered by mail and costs about \$100.

Another constituent, Priscilla Stansbury, a grandmother caring for her 3 grandchildren, is not able to get information easily about snow days and school cancellation. She is blind and tells me that school cancellation and amber alert information generally runs along the bottom of her TV screen with no audio that she can hear.

The Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2008 would require that IP-enabled communication equipment manufactured in the United States have a built-in speaker and a closed captioning decoder. The speaker and decoder would allow Americans with visual and hearing impairments to access the Internet, computers, and cellular devices. Furthermore, it would ensure that IP enabled equipment is manufactured to be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Most Americans get emergency information over the radio, the television or the Internet. Warnings about tornados, such as the one we received on Capitol Hill the other week, should be accessible to all Americans. This bill would require audio and visual accessibility for those who are deaf and blind.

According to the Foundation for the Blind there are approximately 10 million blind people in the United States. The National Association of the Deaf report an estimated 22 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing, and there are a variety of other disabilities that affect the accessibility to audio-visual devices.

Today I joined Congressman ED MARKEY in introducing this legislation to ensure that American citizens with disabilities have full access to the information that the rest of us take for granted.

RECOGNIZING SAM KELTNER OF
VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Sam Keltner of Virginia Beach, and to commend him on becoming a Congressional Award Gold Medalist. This recognition by the United States Congress is the highest honor bestowed upon America's youth. It serves as a testament to Sam's strength of character and commitment to our national values of dedication to public service and the cherished qualities of personal growth, initiative, and achievement, all of which are cornerstones of the Congressional Award.

Sam's volunteer efforts are tremendous, speaking very highly of him and his level of commitment to the community and to public service. In earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Sam worked on behalf of Real Life Christian Church to help others, providing moveable storage crates for the church and fellowship. In addition, he continues to be active within the Boy Scouts of America, BSA, Tidewater Council, serving as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader, completing the Venturing Scout program, receiving the BSA Tidewater Council Venturing Leadership Award, and participating in the Physical Fitness QUEST program.

Sam has devoted time and energy to excellence in physical fitness, improving his speed in running and playing a diversity of sports. His incredible effort enabled him to reach a time of a little over 14 minutes for a 5k run. By maintaining his own physical fitness, Sam continues to push himself to achieve more, and engage in new opportunities for advanced leadership experience including the 2006 COPE Program, his membership with U.S. Track and Field, and his involvement with the First Colonial High School Varsity Cross Country Track Team.

Sam has become a role model not only for his peers, but for the large community around him. Upon receiving the Congressional Medal, he joins a most elite group of our Nation's youth who have set and achieved this very commendable goal. I am certain Sam's incredible accomplishments, dedication to service, and evident leadership talents will continue to speak highly of him, as they do now.

REVISING SHORT TITLE OF THE
FANNIE LOU HAMER, ROSA
PARKS, AND CORETTA SCOTT
KING VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAU-
THORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today in support of S. 188. In passing this bill, we will honor true pioneers in the struggle for civil rights by adding the names of Cesar Chavez, Barbara Jordan, William Velasquez, and Dr. Hector Garcia to the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Today, we honor their instrumental role in the struggle for civil rights, and celebrate the historic contributions and enduring legacy of these great Americans.

Dr. Hector P. Garcia was a Mexican immigrant who came to Texas fleeing the violence of the Mexican Revolution in 1917, and through hard work and tenacity became a doctor, soldier, and true American hero. After being wounded in battle and fighting for VA benefits, he founded the American G.I. forum to help Mexican Americans claim the VA benefits they had earned. After World War II, the American G.I. Forum became the leading voice for Mexican American veterans. As a resident of my hometown Corpus Christi, Dr. Garcia was an inspiration to me because he stood tall for veterans to see that they received the benefits they have earned through service to country.

It is my hope that Hispanic Americans, who have time and again served our Nation in combat with distinction, will take special pride in knowing that Dr. Hector P. Garcia will forever stand as a symbol of all Hispanics who have so patriotically served America in uniform.

Dr. Garcia first became a national figure when he successfully fought for the burial rights of Private Felix Longoria, killed in the line of duty during World War II. After Private Longoria's widow's request to have him buried in their hometown cemetery in Three Rivers Texas was denied, Dr. Garcia and the American G.I. Forum took his case to Senator Lyndon Johnson, who pushed to have Private Longoria buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Garcia, Private Longoria became the first Mexican American to be honored with a burial at Arlington.

Dr. Garcia's groundbreaking work to advance the cause of Hispanic civil rights continued for decades and he became a trusted adviser to American presidents. His successful efforts to break down barriers and desegregate American society, improve working conditions, increase access to health care and educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans became legendary and deserve our utmost respect.

Dr. Garcia's many accomplishments and honors include:

The Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1984.

Appointment as alternate U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

The U.S. Army's Bronze Star and six battle stars for his service in World War II.

The American G.I. Forum's Medalla al Merito in 1952, for his work with Mexican American veterans.

The Distinguished Service Award from the National Office of Civil Rights, 1980.

The National Hispanic Leadership Conference's Hispanic Heritage Award, 1989.

The Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great from Pope John Paul II, 1990.

On a personal note, I had the privilege of growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas just four houses down the street from Dr. Garcia and his family. His life's commitment to the cause of civil rights was an inspiration to me in my youth and played an important role in my entering public service. It was an honor to call him my friend and mentor.

Madam Speaker, with deep respect for the life and extraordinary accomplishments of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, I urge my colleagues to support S. 188.

HONORING DAN MEYER FOR WIN-
NING THE CABLE'S LEADERS IN
LEARNING AWARD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it's with great honor that I congratulate my constituent, Dan Meyer, a teacher with the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District who has been selected to receive the Cable's Leaders in Learning Award for creating and implementing innovative ways to educate students. He is one of 14 national winners selected from a pool of 44 finalist applications.

As the sole winner in the "Pushing the Envelope with Cable Technology and Programming" category, he is being recognized for improving algebra instruction by creating and posting a video lesson for teachers online. Mr. Meyer found a way to improve algebra instruction and share it with math teachers worldwide. After spending three weeks helping students to understand a single algebra equation, he came to the conclusion that using video as a teaching tool was the answer. He produced 10 short videos to accompany his lesson plan, and was shocked at the pace his students learned the once confusing algebraic equations after viewing the videos.

Mr. Meyer decided to post the video and lesson plan on his blog and its viewings jumped from 30 visitors a day to 6,000 downloads in two weeks. His teaching technique has now been shared with teachers all over the country and our Nation's students are better for his efforts.

Our Nation depends on teachers like Dan Meyer who use technology and innovation to help students learn and grow. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dan Meyer for his extraordinary leadership and distinguishing himself as a Cable's Leaders in Learning Award recipient.

STATEMENT CONGRATULATING
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNI-
VERSITY AND FLORIDA ATLAN-
TIC UNIVERSITY ON BEING
RANKED AMONG THE TOP 100
COLLEGES AWARDING DEGREES
TO HISPANICS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two exemplary South Florida institutions of higher learning: Florida International University (FIU) and Florida Atlantic University (FAU). These universities were recently ranked by Hispanic Outlook Magazine as 1st and 28th, respectively, among the top 100 colleges awarding degrees to Hispanics in the United States.

Both institutions have built a rich tradition of ensuring an exceptional educational experience to quality students of all backgrounds. FAU and FIU are dedicated to imparting knowledge through excellent teaching, groundbreaking research, and a commitment to public service.

In today's global society, it is imperative that we recognize the importance of scholastic achievement without forgetting how vital it is that the learning experience extend beyond the classroom. FIU and FAU are committed to ensuring that their students are well-rounded, socially conscious, and constantly exposed to various cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. The graduates of these universities serve as trailblazers in Florida's continuous endeavor to provide educational opportunities that will improve the social and economic disparities that Florida's minority communities face.

As one example, FIU will open South Florida's only public medical school in August 2009. The new school will serve as the cornerstone of a broader, university-wide Health Science Center. Through this effort, the University aims to expand healthcare access to traditionally underserved populations and to train physicians who are sensitive to South Florida's unique cultural diversity.

FAU is also impacting the South Florida community by encouraging economic development in urban core areas through its Sustainable Community Planning curriculum. This curriculum prepares students who aspire to become practicing planners, public administrators, civic leaders, and neighborhood activists. Programs are geared towards community revitalization which will ultimately affect how neighboring cities cope with increasing challenges associated with growth and change.

I commend FAU and FIU for serving as role models to colleges and universities throughout our Nation. They are exemplary examples of two schools which continue to uphold a commitment to cultural diversity, public service, and academic excellence. Their effectiveness is truly demonstrated through every student who earns a degree, every researcher who makes a discovery, and every community that benefits from the efforts and accomplishments of these two noteworthy institutions. I am proud to congratulate FAU and FIU for this noteworthy achievement and the indelible impact they have had on both our local and national landscapes.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF STAN W.
BURCHARDT

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Stan W. Burchardt of the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office for interrupting a breaking and entering incident in Pittsford, Michigan and arresting the suspect. It is with great pride that I congratulate Sheriff Burchardt on behalf of all of those who have benefited from his dedicated service to Hillsdale County and his proven ability to protect its citizens.

On May 23, 2008 at approximately 1:15 A.M., Sheriff Stan Burchardt was awoken by a noise outside his residence in Pittsford. Upon hearing the noise, the Sheriff exited his home and positioned himself outside in the dark for approximately five minutes. Sheriff Burchardt soon observed a subject running from his next door neighbor's house, heading toward Pittsford Tire & Gas Company. The suspect, wearing a ski mask and camouflage clothing, ran to the main entrance of the building and broke in through the front door.

Sheriff Burchardt immediately ran from his residence to the front door of the business. He witnessed the subject walk behind the counter and place items into a backpack. After identifying himself, Sheriff Burchardt proceeded to arrest the suspect. He held the suspect at bay and called a patrol unit using a telephone at the business. Deputies from Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office arrived on the scene and transported the suspect to the Hillsdale County jail where he was booked for breaking and entering.

Sheriff Stan Burchardt has honorably served as Hillsdale County Sheriff for over 12 years and has a total of 29 years of law enforcement experience. While serving in this position, Sheriff Burchardt has significantly advanced the force by increasing training for staff members, establishing minimum physical agility standards for staff to meet, and graduating 23 student cadets representing many schools within Hillsdale County. Continually engaged in the community, the Sheriff has sponsored many successful outreach programs to train in areas such as school safety, senior citizen protection, and methamphetamine awareness. Sheriff Burchardt is highly respected throughout the community for his proven law enforcement leadership and reputation for honor and integrity.

Madam, Speaker, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sheriff Stan W. Burchardt of the Hillsdale County Sheriff's Office for his brave actions and esteemed leadership. The Sheriff's arrest of the suspect will undoubtedly make criminals think twice, lower breaking and entering incidents in the area and ease the minds of many throughout the community. May others know of my high regard for his outstanding performance and honorable service to Hillsdale County, as well as my best wishes for Sheriff Stan Burchardt in the future.

IN HONOR OF MR. KING GEORGE
PITTMAN, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, Mr. SKELTON and I rise to honor the life of King George Pittman, who, at the age of 87, passed away on Tuesday, June 10, 2008. A man who was extremely proud of his heritage and the military, King George Pittman lived a full and eventful life.

A native of Florida, Mr. Pittman was the fourth youngest of twelve children born in Tallahassee to Williams Pittman and Carrie Tansy Pittman. There he attended Lincoln High School and was a member of Philadelphia Primitive Baptist Church. At the age of 21, he joined the U.S. Army.

Mr. Pittman served in the U.S. Army from May 22, 1941 to December 14, 1956. He fought in World War II and the Korean War. He earned eight different awards for his service. He received the Good Conduct Medal Bronze Clasp with Three Loops for his loyalty, knowledge, vigilance and merit. He received the Purple Heart for his bravery. In addition to these, he received the World War II Victory Medal, the Korean Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the United Nations Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation badge and the Honorable Service Lapel Button World War II. Although he received all of these awards, his family never knew of his many accomplishments. He served his country with distinction, and was modest to say the least.

A brother, uncle, great uncle, friend and neighbor, Mr. Pittman was a proud man who leaves behind his sister, and our former colleague, retired U.S. Representative Carrie P. Meek, a constant source of his pride.

He also leaves a nephew, and our current colleague, Congressman KENDRICK B. MEEK of Florida, who proudly serves on the House Armed Services Committee, an assignment that surely put a smile on King's face. King found pride in all of his family, including nephews Samuel Pittman and Charles Bellamy, nieces, Lucia Raiford, Sheila Kinui, Betty Jean Pittman and Katrina Presley.

For his patriotic efforts in the Korean War in particular, King has rated burial at Arlington National Cemetery, a high honor and memorial for a war hero. The Korean War was too significant to neglect, too momentous to ignore, too pivotal to be disregarded, and far too costly to be forgotten. And, so we take this moment to honor King, one of its many heroes.

And, he is honored even more by the great family he leaves behind with us. King George Pittman lived a long and fulfilling time. He can now rest in the arms of the God he cherished and served. Mr. Pittman will truly be missed.

SAFE KIDS USA

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in child

safety: Safe Kids USA's inspection of more than one million car seats.

Since 1996, Safe Kids USA, a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, has partnered with General Motors to address one of the Nation's most significant public health issues: Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 2 to 14 and the leading cause of injury-related death for children under age 2.

Together with GM, Safe Kids USA has redefined how parents and caregivers learn about child passenger safety in order to prevent these injuries and deaths from happening in the first place. We know that when installed and used correctly, child safety seats and safety belts can prevent injury and save lives. Their initiative, Safe Kids Buckle Up, sponsors car seat checkup events, which are essential to show families the intricacies of how to properly use and install child safety seats.

At these events, trained child passenger safety technicians teach families how to safely transport their children and help to make sure everyone in a vehicle is buckled up correctly on every ride. On average, technicians spend about 30 minutes with each child. Most of these events are open to the public and are conducted by Safe Kids coalitions in central locations like Chevrolet and other GM dealerships, hospitals, community centers and shopping centers. Families who need child safety seats, but cannot afford them, are never turned away and children who are being transported in potentially dangerous, recalled car seats are given safe replacements. Parents and caregivers can have the peace of mind that their child will be safer for the simple fact that they participated in a Safe Kids Buckle Up event.

In addition, through the generosity of General Motors, Safe Kids coalitions have access to Mobile Car Seat Checkup Vans which serve communities across the Nation. The vans are specially designed, self-contained units that can turn any parking lot into a full-service car seat safety event site. The fleet was launched in 1999 with 51 vans; today there are 125 on the road with another 12 being added through 2008. There are also more than 400 permanent car seat inspection stations operated by Safe Kids coalitions in order for families to take advantage of trained technicians whenever they are needed.

To date, Safe Kids Buckle Up has reached more than 15 million people and there have been more than 45,000 events that bring much needed car seat inspection services and educational messages to families across the country. The program has also donated 365,000 seats to families in need. On June 12th, the one millionth car seat was inspected at an event in Los Angeles and it personally gratifies me to see the evolution of this outstanding program that serves children and their families.

While crash protection is the backbone of Safe Kids Buckle Up, the program has evolved to offer vehicle safety programs beyond car seats and booster seats. Children can be injured or killed by heat exposure in parked cars, by suffocation when they get stuck in a trunk or when struck in a non-traffic setting such as a driveway or a parking lot. Safe Kids Buckle Up has responded to these risks by introducing three new components to their programming efforts—Spot the Tot, Never Leave Your Child Alone and Preventing

Trunk Entrapment—in order to help prevent children from being left alone in or around a vehicle. I applaud Safe Kids Buckle Up for moving beyond crash protection and for addressing children's safety needs in all types of motor vehicle situations.

I was part of the launch of the Safe Kids—General Motors partnership in 1996 and I have been proud to lend my support over the years to Safe Kids in their efforts to raise public awareness of the serious problem of motor vehicle crashes. We have made considerable progress in child passenger safety but our work is not done. Every American must understand that there are proven ways to keep children safer in vehicles and we can prevent many injuries and deaths through proper safety precautions.

I encourage all of my colleagues to participate in a Safe Kids Buckle Up event in their districts to see firsthand how these safety precautions can make a difference in a child's life. Please join me in celebrating the achievements of Safe Kids USA, their remarkable 310+ coalition network and General Motors, whose combined efforts ensure that every child that visits a car seat safety event leaves safer than when he/she entered.

SEPTEMBER 13TH—DR. BERNARD LOWN DAY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to join with my colleague, the Senior Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), in hailing the proclamation of September 13th, 2008 as Dr. Bernard Lown Day.

In fact Madam Speaker, it would be a more accurate representation of the dimensions of Dr. Lown's great career if we were to proclaim several Dr. Bernard Lown Days. He is a man who has made numerous extremely valuable contributions to humanity in a number of fields, because he combines intellectual ability of the first order, a deep commitment to improving the quality of life of his coinhabitants of the planet, a capacity to translate his unsurpassed understanding of the actual functioning of the human heart into treatments and instruments that have significantly advanced the fight against heart diseases, and finally, a characteristic not often joined to some of those I have just listed, an understanding of the political process and how to move it.

In his professional life as a cardiologist, Dr. Lown invented the defibrillator and the cardioverter, and he was the first to use the drug lidocaine. In these innovations, in his own practice of over 50 years, and the knowledge he's imparted to countless numbers of younger—and by now not so young—other doctors, Dr. Lown has put all of us in his debt for his contributions to our health.

In addition, he has been a leader in international cooperation in the medical field, and in humanitarian work in general, recognizing early on that the fight against disease and poor health must know no artificial political boundaries.

Finally, he has been a leader in the effort to avert nuclear disaster and to promote a hu-

mane and sensible approach to international conflict. In recognition of these latter activities, Dr. Lown was a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in 1985 for his work in co-founding the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the work he had done—and of course continues to do—opposing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and promoting world peace.

It is sometimes said that people who try to do too many different things can diminish their ability to do any one thing. Bernard Lown's life is an example of exactly the opposite: the many areas of important human activity in which he has excelled have not detracted from each other but rather have reinforced each other, contributing to a life's work that has been a model of how one takes his very considerable talents and puts them at the service of others.

Senator KENNEDY and I are delighted to have been given the privilege of representing Dr. Lown in the Congress of the United States and we are very proud to join here today in observing September 13th as Dr. Bernard Lown Day.

TRIBUTE TO MR. BOB MCCLELLAN

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of Bob McClellan. Mr. McClellan has, since 1994, served as President and CEO of Hortica Insurance, formerly Florists Mutual, headquartered in Edwardsville, Illinois. He had been employed at Hortica from 1987–1994 in several senior management positions. Prior to his time at Hortica, Bob McClellan served as an adjunct faculty member at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville from 1978–1985 and as Management Information Services Director from 1976–1978. It was at SIUE that Mr. McClellan received a B.S. and M.B.A. in 1974 and 1976, respectively.

Bob McClellan's most admirable achievements come not from his professional life, but his personal life. Mr. McClellan has continually dedicated himself to the betterment of his community and the preservation of educational institutions. Mr. McClellan has been a member of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America Trails West Council, for example. In 1996, he worked with Edwardsville High School administrators to develop and implement a technology plan that allowed the school to provide modern instruction to its students. In 2005, Bob worked to bring a Hortica donation to SIUE when he personally carried plants and flowers to a celebration on campus. Clearly, Mr. McClellan gives freely of his time and professional expertise.

Mr. McClellan has received numerous awards in his lifetime, including the Rotary International's Four-Way Test Award for Business Ethics in 2007 and the Business Partnership Award from Ameren and the Illinois Development Council in 2005. I wish to honor him today with my words of appreciation. Men like Mr. McClellan deserve deep gratitude and respect. His unwavering enthusiasm for community development, coupled with his keen business sense, is both unusual and exceptionally commendable. As Bob McClellan retires from his post as President and CEO of

Hortica Insurance, I have no doubt that his commitment to community will continue unabated for years to come. For the past years of service, and for those to come, I offer my utmost thanks to Mr. Bob McClellan of Edwardsville, Illinois. Enjoy your retirement, Bob.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. AND MRS.
ROBERT MILLER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House today to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of two constituents of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller.

On June 28th, the Millers will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple will gather with friends and family at the Townsend's Warehouse on the 28th to commemorate this special occasion.

I would like to congratulate Robert and Patricia for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

IN HONOR OF THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YPSILANTI DISTRICT LIBRARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ypsilanti district library and to commemorate its 140 years of service to the Ypsilanti community. In 1868, only 31 years after Michigan became a State, a group of three women who were committed to promoting reading and literacy founded the library in the small room of a building on Huron St. It began with only 175 books, and today has expanded to three branches with a collection of over 300,000 volumes.

In addition to this impressive collection of reading material, the library provides other outstanding services to the community. It offers classes on computer skills and specific software programs, which provide participants with the tools they need to succeed in this technology-driven world. Last year, the library ran over 1,000 youth-oriented programs, which reached over 24,000 people in the Ypsilanti area. The Ypsilanti Library's "Tumblebooks" program provides animated picture books online for young children, which promotes early reading skills. Such services are invaluable in Michigan, as they help combat illiteracy while sparking a child's imagination and desire to continue learning.

Libraries offer themselves as a tremendous resource to those who are learning to read and those who love to read. Without libraries many young children would not have access to new books or computers with access to the Internet. I have always believed that teaching children to read provides them with an impor-

tant lifelong tool. The Ypsilanti district library should be commended for what it has done to further this cause.

I am proud of the Ypsilanti library's many contributions to Michigan's 15th Congressional district and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the library on 140 wonderful years of service.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO HELP
SHRIMPERS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the American shrimp industry is a textbook example of a great American business crippled by foolish government policies. Congress and the federal bureaucracy have burdened shrimpers with needless regulations and laws that dramatically raise shrimpers' cost of doing business while subsidizing American shrimpers' overseas competitors. Unless Congress soon reverses course and repeals these destructive government policies, many shrimpers will be forced out of business.

Congress's refusal to take any constructive action to address skyrocketing fuel costs has, in particular, hurt shrimpers. Some shrimpers are so desperate to lower their fuel costs that they are going to Mexico in search of affordable fuel. Think about this, Madam Speaker it is cheaper for shrimpers to travel to Mexico to buy gas than to obtain gas in the USA. Yet, Congress still refuses to take reasonable actions, such as expanding offshore drilling or repealing federal laws that delay the production of refineries, to expand oil supply and thus reduce the price of fuel.

The federal government has also imposed numerous regulations on shrimpers dealing with use of items such as bycatch reduction devices and turtle excluder devices (TEDS). Madam Speaker, it is common to speak of the negative effects of regulations as "unintended consequences." However, it is difficult to speak of the effects of the TEDS on shrimpers as unintended consequences when the National Marine Fisheries Service heard industry representatives and representatives of communities whose economies rely on a thriving shrimping industry present first-hand testimony on how these TEDS regulations would harm shrimpers.

The problems shrimpers face are compounded by foreign competitors who are taking advantage of the government-created vulnerabilities in the American shrimp industry. Adding insult to injury, the federal government is forcing American shrimpers to subsidize their competitors through international agencies such as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank, and the International Monetary Fund! In fact, United States taxpayers have provided over \$16,500,000,000 to the home countries of the leading foreign competitors of American shrimpers since 1999.

In order to stop the federal government from punishing shrimpers with unfair regulations and forcing them to subsidize their major competitors, I introduced the Shrimp Importation Financing Fairness Act. This legislation would place a moratorium on any restrictive regula-

tions negatively impacting the shrimp industry and prevent any taxpayer money from going to any country that exported more than 20 million pounds of shrimp to the United States in the previous six months. However, Congress chose not to even take these simple steps to help the American shrimp industry.

Of course, American shrimpers, like all American businesses that compete in the global marketplace, also suffers from the weak U.S. dollar. Congress's fiscal irresponsibility is a major cause of the weakening U.S. dollar.

Madam Speaker, it is still not too late or Congress to help the shrimp industry. Congress should immediately end subsidies to American shrimpers' foreign competitors, place a moratorium on harmful regulations imposed on the shrimp industry, and take action to reduce fuel prices by expanding the supply of oil. I urge my colleagues to join me in working to fix the misguided government policies that are harming America shrimpers.

RECOGNIZING SEAN WARREN OF
VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Sean Warren of Virginia Beach, and to commend him on becoming a Congressional Award Gold Medalist. This recognition by the United States Congress is the highest honor bestowed upon America's youth. It serves as a testament to Sam's strength of character and commitment to our national values of dedication to public service and the cherished qualities of personal growth, initiative, and achievement, all of which are cornerstones of the Congressional Award.

Sean's volunteer efforts are tremendous, speaking very highly of him and his level of commitment to the community and to public service. In earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Sean worked with the Lynnhaven Baseball Fields Executive Board to provide a children's playground area onsite. In addition, he continues to be active within the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Tidewater Council, serving as Junior Assistant Scoutmaster and Senior Patrol Leader, completing the Venturing Scout program, receiving the BSA Tidewater Council Venturing Leadership Award, and participating in the Physical Fitness QUEST and Fitness for Life programs.

Sean has devoted time and energy to excellence in physical fitness, improving his running and weightlifting capacity for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) and football at Princess Anne High School. He has engaged in opportunities also for advanced leadership experience, including his position as Cadet Athletic Commander for his NJROTC unit and as a member of the 2006 COPE Program. Sean has balanced the challenges of public service with his own personal welfare and developed a well-rounded persona.

Sean has become a role model not only his peers and teammates, but for the large community around him. Upon receiving the Congressional Medal, he joins a most elite group of our Nation's youth who have set and

achieved this very commendable goal. I am certain Sean's incredible accomplishments, dedication to service, and evident leadership talents will continue to speak highly of him, as they do now.

INTRODUCTION OF IMPORTED ETHANOL FACILITATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to facilitate the importation of ethanol. It is cosponsored by my colleague from Colorado, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and I appreciate his support.

The bill will direct the President to lower the ethanol import tariff, so that it will never be higher than the tax-credit subsidy for blending ethanol into gasoline.

Historically, the ethanol tariff was linked to the subsidy, and so had the effect of precluding foreign ethanol blenders from benefiting from the subsidy. However, the recently-enacted Farm Bill will reduce the subsidy but simultaneously extend the tariff for 2 more years at \$0.54 per gallon.

Unless that changes, the tariff will be changed into a trade barrier that will make it even harder for ethanol imports to enter the U.S. market. This can have serious adverse consequences. For example—

By restricting supplies, it will tend to increase the price of fuel—including both gasoline and ethanol—in the United States.

It will make it harder to import sugar-based ethanol, which can work in today's cars and, like other ethanol emits considerably less lifecycle greenhouse gas than gasoline.

It works against imports from friendly countries that produce ethanol while oil and gasoline imports from OPEC enter the United States tax-free.

It hinders the emergence of a global biofuels marketplace that could permit mutually beneficial trade between producing regions and stabilize both fuel and food prices.

And it tends to increase our dependency on fossil fuels—including petroleum from the Middle East—when we should be working to reduce that dependency.

By restoring the role of the tariff as an offset, not a trade barrier, my bill will prevent those consequences. In this respect, it is a companion to legislation (S. 3080) introduced in the Senate by Senator FEINSTEIN.

In addition, my bill will require the Energy and Commerce Departments to report to Congress regarding the possible effect of further reducing—or even eliminating—the tariff on ethanol on fuel supplies and prices in the United States and on the domestic production of ethanol.

I have included this provision because I think it is worth exploring whether legislation to further reduce or eliminate the tariff could help reduce fuel prices without serious harm to our domestic ethanol industry.

Madam Speaker, this bill alone will not do all that should be done to revise and reform our energy policies. But I think it can help, and I think it deserves the support of all our colleagues.

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is an outline of the bill's provisions:

SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

Section one provides a short title, "Imported Ethanol Facilitation Act."

Section two sets out findings regarding the reasons for the bill. It also states the bill's purpose, which is "to ensure that the tariff on ethanol does not exceed the tax credit applicable to blenders of ethanol, to avoid erecting a new trade barrier to imports of ethanol while assuring that foreign blenders will not benefit from the tax credit, and to require a study of potential effects of further reduction in or elimination of the duty on ethanol."

Section three directs the president to act to ensure that the ethanol tariff will not exceed any tax credit applicable to ethanol.

Section four requires the Department of Energy and the Commerce Department to report to Congress regarding the effects any further reduction—or elimination—of the ethanol tariff would have on (1) fuel supplies and fuel prices in the U.S.; and (2) the domestic production of ethanol. The deadline for this report would be 90 days after the bill's enactment.

THANKING MR. DANIEL G. DOODY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on July 6, 2008, we rise today to thank Daniel (Dan) Doody for over 23 years of combined federal government service within the Department of Defense and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Prior to his tenure with the House, Dan spent approximately 15 years of his career in the Department of Defense with responsibilities ranging from program control officer and staff engineer to various management positions supporting complex systems development activities.

In January 2000, Dan came to the U.S. House of Representatives, within the Office of Chief Administrative Office, CAO, as the Deputy Associate Administrator for House Information Resources (HIR). In this role, Dan managed the CAO's technology planning and budgeting activities as well as overseeing systems development projects and operations.

In August 2001, Dan took overall responsibility for HIR, an organization of approximately 270 staff. This role was quickly tested when in September 2001 the nation experienced the tragic events of September 11th followed quickly by the House Office Building anthrax contamination and subsequent closures in October 2001. Immediately thereafter, Dan was assigned the critical role of Program Manager for the House's Business Continuity Disaster Recovery (BCDR) initiatives. The focus of this program was to dramatically improve the House's business continuity planning and recovery capabilities so that House essential support services were easily restored or transitioned to backup systems in the event of an emergency.

Dan continued his duties as HIR Associate Administrator until February 2006 at which time he became the Deputy CAO for Operations. In this role, Dan had responsibility for the operations of HIR, Administrative and Fi-

nancial Services, Workforce Services, and Business Continuity. Dan's attention to detail, skill in developing working relationships at all levels of the House, Legislative Branch, and industry, as well as his uncanny ability to discern good ideas and implementation approaches from the bad, Dan was a voice of reason whose recommendations and opinions were always sought after and held with the highest regard.

Dan has dedicated his life to making the federal government and, in particular, the CAO and the U.S. House of Representatives a better and more secure place to work. After his retirement from the government, Dan's plan is to return to private industry. On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Dan for his dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

IN TRIBUTE OF REX LAIRD

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Rex Laird, who retired this week after 28 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Ventura County Farm Bureau.

As CEO, Rex was responsible for managing the Farm Bureau's staff, daily operations and finances. He recommended policy to the bureau Board of Directors, implemented board directives, and represented the interests of the membership at legislative and regulatory hearings. He also served as the bureau's liaison with the news media and community organizations.

Rex did it all with a calm, consensus-building demeanor. It's safe to say that Rex and I didn't always agree, but we always parted with a handshake and looked forward to seeing each other again.

Rex commands respect due to his knowledge and passion for Ventura County's agricultural industry. During his tenure, the county's population more than doubled. Restrictions tightened on pesticide use; trade with the Pacific Rim expanded; competition from foreign growers increased; and growers faced floods, freezes, fires, droughts, and agricultural pests.

Rex not only helped steer the industry through it all, he helped it grow and expand. Today, agriculture remains one of Ventura County's top industries, grossing more than \$1.5 billion annually. Agriculture is also diverse in Ventura County, with citrus and nut groves, row crops, livestock and poultry, and nursery stock, among others.

Rex's skill as a consensus builder is epitomized by his role as a founding member of the Ag Futures Alliance Committee, which was formed to promote better understanding and dialog within the community on agricultural issues. The group includes representatives from the community, media, business, agriculture, environmental, and advocacy groups.

In 2005, the California Farm Bureau Federation recognized the Ventura County Farm Bureau for its activities in the Ag Futures Alliance and its leadership role working in a collaborative effort with the Association of Water

Agencies and other agricultural and water entities. Rex has been awarded numerous personal citations as well.

Madam Speaker, Rex leaves Ventura County's agricultural industry strong. I know my colleagues will join me in thanking him for his many years of dedicated service and in wishing him a long and fruitful retirement with his wife, Susan; and many years of enjoyment with their sons, Sean and Kevin; and their five grandchildren.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN
PLAYTER'S SERVICE AS A
WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND
POW

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BLUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and say thank you to a true American hero—and Missouri native. John Playter might not be a household name for many, but his service to our country during World War II certainly earns him a leading role in America's Greatest Generation.

Mr. Playter was called to duty in 1941 and served as an artillery officer before being taken prisoner with thousands of other U.S. servicemen after the fall of Bataan. His story of survival—through death marches and labor camps—in the Philippine jungles as an American soldier and a prisoner of war is extraordinary and nothing short of inspiring.

After more than two years in Japanese captivity, Mr. Playter regained his freedom only after the Japanese prisoner ship Shinyo Maru sank while transporting 730 Americans. Again defying the odds, John was one of only 83 survivors to be rescued by an American submarine.

When returning to Missouri, Mr. Playter met a young woman named Charlene at the O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield where he recovered from injuries sustained during his captivity. John married Charlene and spent the next 38 years of his life with her at his side.

Staying true to his roots, Mr. Playter worked 25 years as the city engineer for the City of Bolivar. And, along the way, published his memoir, *Survivor*. His personal telling of this powerful story describes the service, faith and triumph of John and his brave colleagues.

The Bolivar Rotary Club will honor Mr. Playter for his service to his country, community and more than 50 years of service as a Rotarian this 4th of July when they name a three-acre park in his honor during their annual "Celebration of Freedom." John's life is an inspiration to everyone and one that deserves this long overdue honor. I'd like to publicly thank Mr. Playter for his dedicated service to his Nation and community.

CONGRATULATING JORGE URBINA,
RECIPIENT OF THE PEACE
CORPS FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS
AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jorge Urbina on being awarded the Peace Corps Franklin H. Williams Award. This award celebrates the ongoing civic contributions of returned volunteers, and is intended to recognize the efforts of those who, like Mr. Urbina, have worked tirelessly to better their communities at home. Mr. Urbina will receive the award tonight, in a ceremony to be held here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Urbina is currently the President of the Denton Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held since 2001. His law practice, Urbina Law and Title, has consistently been committed to diversity in the workplace and involvement in the community. In recognition of his firm's outstanding work, Mr. Urbina was recently named the Small Business Administration's Minority Small Business Champion of the Year. In addition, Mr. Urbina is vice president of the Denton assistance center, a grassroots movement to build a common facility to house a collection of non-profit organizations in the area. He also recently resigned his position on the board of Interfaith Ministries of Denton, after serving for the maximum 12-year term. Mr. Urbina and his wife, Patty, have three children: David, age 21, Thomas, recently graduated from high school, and Susana, age 12.

Established in 1999, the Franklin H. Williams Award pays tribute to returned Peace Corps Volunteers of color who continue the Peace Corps mission through their commitment to community service, and who support the agency's third goal of promoting a better understanding of other peoples on the part of Americans.

I commend Mr. Urbina for the work of his outstanding legal practice, and also for his special involvement in the local community. The award he receives today is well deserved, and I am proud to represent him in the 26th District of Texas.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was detained while attempting to reach the House floor to cast my vote on rollcall No. 415 on June 17, 2008. Had I been able to reach the floor before the vote was closed, I would have voted "yea."

H. CON. RES. 318, SUPPORTING THE
GOALS AND IDEALS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SANI-
TATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 318, a resolution to support the goals and ideals of the International Year of Sanitation and to help raise awareness of the importance of sanitation and safe drinking water.

This resolution recognizes the importance of sanitation on public health, poverty reduction, economic and social development, and the environment. In 2000, the United States and other world leaders committed themselves to combat poverty, hunger, and disease through the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). One target is to halve the number of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015.

Today more than 1 billion people live without safe drinking water and an estimated 2.6 billion people worldwide go without proper sanitation. This lack of access contributes to the deaths of an estimated 1.5 million children each year. Clean water and sanitation are necessary to fight disease and reduce child and maternal mortality. Without it, more children will be sick, more children will forgo schooling, and more will lose their lives to disease.

The absence of basic water and sanitation services is particularly difficult for girls. In communities that lack these services, young girls often bear the burden of water collection leaving them little time or energy for school. Those who do make it to school find that only half all the world's schools have access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation—estimates show half the girls in Sub-Saharan Africa who drop out of primary school do so because of poor water and sanitation facilities. That is why investments in clean water and sanitation are essential to achieving universal education. A school sanitation program in Bangladesh helped increase the number of girls enrolling by 11 percent.

Expanding access to clean water and basic sanitation is one of our best strategies for improving the health and prosperity of entire communities and it is a necessary step toward achieving all of the MDGs. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this resolution and to renew their commitment to improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation to help people live more productive and healthy lives.

TO SUPPORT THE GOALS OF THE
THIRD ANNUAL NATIONAL DUMP
THE PUMP DAY

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of an innovative approach to increasing use on our Nation's public transportation network. Today, June 19, Americans

across the country will “dump the pump” and ride public transportation as part of the Third Annual Dump the Pump Day. This important cause is sponsored by the American Public Transportation Association, APTA, and more than 100 public transportation systems will take part in “dump the pump” activities across the United States to encourage increased ridership on our Nation’s transit systems.

Activities for Dump the Pump day include having public events with drawings for free transit passes and other prizes, offering free or reduced rides, doing radio promotions, and providing “transit ambassadors” to help new riders.

As the price of gas has now surpassed \$4 a gallon, even more commuters are choosing to ride the train or the bus to work rather than drive alone in their cars. In the first quarter of 2008 commuters took more than 2.6 billion trips on trains, subways, light rail, and buses nationwide, an increase of 3.3 percent over the first quarter of 2007. Light rails saw the largest jump in ridership with a 10 percent increase to 110 million trips. Transit systems in metropolitan areas are reporting increases in ridership of 5, 10, and even 15 percent over last year’s figures. Some of the biggest increases in ridership are occurring in many areas in the South and West where new bus and light rail lines have been built in the last few years.

Recently, public transportation has experienced a renaissance in American cities and towns. In 2007, Americans took over 10.3 billion trips on public transportation, the highest level in 50 years. Public transportation use is up 32 percent since 1995, a figure that is more than double the growth rate of the population and is substantially over the growth rate for the vehicle miles traveled on our Nation’s highways for that same period. All around the country, voters continue to approve State and local ballot initiatives to support public transportation, even when it means local taxes will be raised or continued.

Despite these dramatic increases in usage, only 5 percent of workers nationally commute by public transit. Efforts to increase this statistic, such as Dump the Pump Day, are critical to assisting American commuters in making the switch to public transit in their daily commutes.

Another important goal of Dump the Pump Day is to reduce the United States dependence on foreign oil by encouraging more people to use public transportation. According to a recent study, if Americans used public transit at the same rate as Europeans—for roughly 10 percent of their daily travel needs—the United States could reduce its dependence on imported oil by more than 40 percent, nearly equal to the 550 million barrels of crude oil that we import from Saudi Arabia each year. When a solo commuter switches from a single occupancy vehicle to a transit commute, this single mode shift can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 pounds per day—more than 4,800 pounds in a year.

Public transportation use in all of its forms—bus, rail, vanpool, ferry, streetcar, and subway ridership to name a few—saves fuel, reduces emissions, and saves money. The direct petroleum savings attributable to current public transportation use in the United States is 1.4 billion gallons per year. When the secondary effects of transit availability on travel are also taken into account, the equivalent of 4.2 billion

gallons of gasoline is saved annually—more than 11 million gallons of gasoline per day.

This is why I have introduced H.R. 6052, the “Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008.” This bill provides much needed support to public transportation agencies and greater incentives for commuters to choose transit options, thereby reducing their transportation-related energy consumption and reliance on foreign oil. The Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008 authorizes funding for transit agencies nationwide that are temporarily reducing transit fares or expanding transit services to meet the needs of the growing number of transit commuters. H.R. 6052 also extends the Federal transit pass benefits program to require all Federal agencies in the United States to offer transit passes to Federal employees working in urbanized areas with fixed route transit systems nationwide.

Both increased use of public transportation and increased Federal investment in transit are crucial steps we must take to address skyrocketing gas prices, environmental degradation and gridlocked roadways across the Nation.

For these reasons and more, I support the Third Annual Dump the Pump Day to promote public transportation usage in the United States and help America break its addiction to foreign oil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and free our highways from the crippling effects of congestion. I also urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6052, the Saving Energy Through Public Transportation Act of 2008.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS HOME RULE ACT OF 2008

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I am introducing the Public Charter Schools Home Rule Act of 2008, to give the District of Columbia local government full jurisdiction and complete oversight over the District of Columbia Charter School Board. I had hoped this normally routine local control would be possible when I was in the minority and worked with House Speaker Newt Gingrich and former Representative Steve Gunderson on the bill that created the District’s major charter school board. While the charter board bill itself was created on a home rule basis, the structure was not, and reflects a period before the recovery of the DC government from financial and managerial distress.

The DC Charter School Board is composed of members selected by the mayor, but only from a list of individuals presented by the Secretary of the Department of Education. Unlike similar boards in the District, the charter school board members need not be residents of the District of Columbia. Because the mayor is not permitted to select members of the board other than those submitted by the Secretary, the Federal Government inserts itself into critical decisionmaking about an important local education matter. This is an anti-home rule anomaly in a bill which had strong home rule support and is justifiably resented by DC public officials and residents.

Ironically, the charter school bill itself was drawn with an abundance of home rule officials and resident participation. The DC Charter School Board was established by Congress during a time when the District was in the midst of a serious financial crisis. The city’s local charter board, working under the DC Board of Education, had largely failed in its mandate to charter schools. Yet, it was clear that the District’s children needed an alternative to the local school system. I am grateful that my Republican congressional colleagues, who controlled Congress at the time, agreed that alternatives to DCPS could be created without going to private school vouchers, which DC residents and elected officials strongly opposed. Instead, a task force, created by Speaker Gingrich and led by former Representative Steve Gunderson, worked with officials, residents and me, on a home rule basis, to develop the bill. The task force held many sessions that members of the City Council, the School Board, DC education advocates, and residents who had a special interest in education attended. H.R. 3610 became the first Federal charter school bill. Shortly thereafter, a nationwide charter school bill that includes grant funding was enacted with broad bipartisan support.

I do not believe any of us could have anticipated the phenomenal growth and success of the DC Charter School Board or the level of innovations, diversity and excellence of many of the schools that has made it a model, and my bill is not intended as a criticism of the Charter School Board or its work. DC residents have created huge demand. The exponential growth of charter schools up to the largest number in the U.S. and their long waiting lists are a solid indication of the success of our charter schools in meeting the needs of thousands of students. The city would almost surely have lost many more residents than it has without the large growth of charters schools.

Mayor Adrian Fenty is restructuring and reforming the DC public school system and has dissolved the local charter school board, leaving the federally created charter school board as the only standing authority. However, a federally chartered board structure is at odds with these reforms. Only a structure developed by local officials is appropriate, particularly for local education matters. This bill, therefore, does not create a structure or indicate the appointing authority. In our country that is a matter for local officials alone. I have insisted that this bill do no more than repeal all existing Federal jurisdiction and transfer that jurisdiction to the District of Columbia to write its own bill.

Only DC officials should appoint members to its local education board. The board cannot be appropriately accountable if its members are chosen from outside the accountable jurisdiction. I urge my colleagues to pass this important measure as soon as possible.

OFFERING GOOD LUCK AND A
SAFE RETURN TO GROTON’S
1109TH AVCRAD

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today, nearly 150 members of the 1109th Aviation

Classification Repair Activity Depot of the Connecticut National Guard are preparing for the unit's second deployment abroad to Iraq. Although my duties in Washington prevent me from joining the send-off ceremony today in Groton, I want the members of the 1109th AVCRAD, and their families, to know that all of Connecticut is proud of them and look forward to their safe return.

Connecticut's AVCRAD plays a critical role in supporting our military. The unit provides maintenance and logistics for aircraft and equipment help to 14 across the Northeast states and supports Connecticut's fleet of Black Hawk helicopters. Last year, I had the chance to visit their facility and see their operations up close. I walked away from that experience deeply impressed with the professionalism, skill and dedication they have for their mission.

Overseas deployment is not new to the AVCRAD. Yet, as we know all too well, any military deployment is hard not only on our men and women in uniform, but also on their families and loved ones waiting at home for them to return. In my visit last year, I was briefed by the unit's leadership about the scope and impact that this deployment will have not only on the unit as a whole, but also on the families of those preparing to deploy. As I did then, today I continue to offer my unconditional support and assistance to them and their families throughout the length of this deployment.

I am proud to represent the 1109th AVCRAD in Congress. I join Connecticut's Adjutant General, Major General Thaddeus Martin, the unit's commanding officer, Colonel Tom Boland, and the people of southeastern Connecticut in wishing the 1109th AVCARD good luck and eagerly awaiting their safe return.

GEORGE HADDAD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam speaker, I rise today in honor of the commitment to public service that a constituent of mine from Waterbury, Connecticut has made throughout his career as a teacher in the Waterbury school system. George Haddad spent his entire 56-year career serving the students of the Waterbury community, working nights as an adult education instructor.

Education is a stepping stone to prosperity and is absolutely essential in today's rapidly-changing economy. Ours is a Nation that simply cannot thrive and flourish without a well-educated citizenry. Unfortunately, there are still many barriers to a good education that confront scores of Americans.

Mr. Haddad had some of the toughest cases a teacher can have. There have been gang members and young people who have been expelled from other schools that are among those he has counted as students. Yet for 56 years George Haddad refused to give up on these students, never backing down from a challenge. He is renowned and beloved among his colleagues and former pupils as an

educator who truly has the best interests of his students at heart. Having served his country bravely in World War II, Mr. Haddad carried those same virtues of duty and responsibility throughout his entire life.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to George Haddad and others like him who have spent their lives ensuring that those who may have otherwise slipped through the cracks get the education that they deserve. I congratulate Mr. Haddad on his proud record of service to his community and to our country. He is an excellent role model to all, and his example is one to which we should all aspire.

YOUTH CO-OP'S CELEBRATION OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to extend my sincere greetings to all the attendees of the Youth Co-Op "World Refugee Day, Celebrating Human Rights". As you gather today to celebrate the contributions of refugees throughout the world, I would like to thank the executive director, Maria Rodriguez, and all of Youth Co-Op for their commitment to the betterment of the entire south Florida community and the many refugees who have made new homes here. Since its inception, the Youth Co-Op has been a pioneer institution in assisting refugees in translating their strengths, skills and past experiences into assets in their new communities. I would also like to personally applaud the men and women of the Youth Co-Op for working closely with community members to providing a warm and secure welcome to all refugees.

Unfortunately, in a prison cell not much larger than a portable toilet, without a window to watch the days pass him by, or even another human being to soothe the pangs of loneliness, the prisoner lies helpless as we celebrate. He has lived his entire life in a world, just outside, where liberty has been suffocated and injustice reigns. Dr. Oscar Biscet is one of many prisoners of conscience incarcerated in Cuba and around the world for not cooperating with the government's unjust practices. Like Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Jose Marti before him, Dr. Oscar Elias Biscet, has become universal symbol of dignified activism, liberty, peace, and resilience. The policies of the totalitarian regime which he dissented from are blatant violations of the human rights which we so cherish. Biscet has demonstrated the courage and resolve that has earned him international recognition as a champion of human dignity, even while denied a voice in his own homeland.

On this day, June 20, World Refugee Day, we must keep in mind what it means to be a refugee, an asylum seeker, and a political prisoner. Uprooted from their homes and livelihoods, escaping in the night with only that which you can carry, or beaten and humiliated into submission, refugees sacrifice everything in hope of a better future. By definition, a refugee is an individual who flees their country because their lives are jeopardized by an inability to feel free and secure in their homeland. A 2007 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, Dr. Biscet represents the very prin-

ciples for which any individual would become a refugee. His plea for justice and freedom for his people are resoundingly similar to those reverberated throughout history and across the world by anyone who has experienced oppression, especially those who are forced to resort to fleeing their country.

Biscet's physical incarceration exemplifies the figurative imprisonment of all Cubans and the worldwide struggle of every refugee. His commitment to his cause is demonstrated by his refusal to denounce his pleas for justice in return for release from prison. Even given the opportunity for freedom in exile, Biscet has chosen not to abandon his people saying "I will continue to resist until realizing freedom for [all] my people." On this day, we unite to recognize and honor the continual struggle for basic human rights by people like Biscet. It is difficult to imagine that in many places around the world, including just 90 miles across our Florida straits, simply reading these words and advocating this cause could would easily result in being confined to a windowless, 3-by-6 foot cell.

Unfortunately, even as prisoners of conscience remain incarcerated and opposition movements like Las Damas de Blanco stage peaceful demonstrations challenging the governments crackdown on 75 dissidents in 2003, our country grows increasingly complacent. We cannot forget the systematic abuses being committed by oppressive regimes in places like China, Burma, Zimbabwe, and Cuba. A movement of low expectations only assumes that other fragments of freedom and democracy will follow. We must remember that small concessions to liberty are not a full and just realization of freedom. As a long time member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I believe that this is simply not enough. We must demand basic, internationally recognized human rights for all.

Today, as the world stand behinds us in solidarity, we must not forget that millions of people are still fighting for the rights which we take for granted in this country. It is unjust that the human conditions be constantly subjected to a tug of war between the tribulations brought about by oppression and the sanctity of human rights. It is paradoxical for human rights to exist on signed declarations alone but for those same signatories to forgo these same principles of life liberty, and security which are innate within every person. Jose Marti once wrote that "We are free, but not to be indifferent to human suffering. Man is not free to watch impassively the enslavement and dishonor of men, nor their struggle for liberty and honor." We do not need to be enduring abuses and imprisonment in order to advocate for human rights. In fact, today on World Refugee Day, our liberty can serve as our best weapon against oppression

IN HONOR OF SENIOR AIRMAN
JASON DORIAN NATHAN

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Senior Airman Jason Dorian Nathan on the first anniversary of his death due to hostile fire while stationed in Iraq.

Senior Airman Nathan was a 2004 graduate of Central High School in Macon, Georgia. His strong sense of patriotism, honor, and commitment to excellence led him to proudly enlist in the United States Air Force. He planned to resume his studies at Fort Valley State College and University, where he pursued a degree in Criminal Justice prior to his enlistment in 2005.

Madam Speaker, on June 1, 2008, the 48th Fighter Wing dedicated a Vehicle Entry Gate at RAF Lakenheath in honor of Senior Airman Nathan. The plaque which commemorated the event reads, "This gate is memorialized in the name of Senior Airman Jason D. Nathan who was assigned to the 48th Security Squadron, 48th Fighter Wing, RAF Lakenheath, England. Senior Airman Nathan was mortally wounded by an improvised explosive device on 23 June 2007 while on a combat patrol in Tikrit, Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He gave his life providing courageous support to his squad while protecting the people of Iraq in their pursuit of freedom from oppression and terror. Senior Airman Nathan's heroic actions and unselfish dedication upheld the highest traditions of the Security Forces career field and the United States Air Force." Senior Airman Nathan was also honored at ceremonies in Iraq and in Afghanistan.

Senior Airman Nathan's selfless service to his country, his willingness to pay the ultimate sacrifice so that all of us can enjoy the fruits of liberty, his desire to see the Iraqi people live in a free and democratic society, are all attributes of an outstanding young American to whom we all owe a great debt of gratitude and respect.

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in recognizing the heroism, patriotism and fidelity of Senior Airman Jason Dorian Nathan.

ON THE PASSING OF THEO BAARS, JR.

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to recognize the passing of Theo Baars, Jr. Over several decades, Theo helped shape the Pensacola community and contributed greatly to making this area a great place for people to live and work.

During the 1960s, 1970s and beyond, Theo played a great role in bringing some important businesses and services to the Pensacola area, located in my district in Northwest Florida. Through his active work in the real estate community, several buildings that are now considered landmarks were built, including Sacred Heart Hospital and Pensacola Junior College. Theo was instrumental in locating these two landmarks and numerous other buildings in areas where they would serve the greatest amount of people.

Theo's projects not only benefitted great numbers of people but also the community as a whole. From health care to higher learning to consumer goods to state parks, he made sure that development was not done for the sake of development, but to directly benefit those living and working in the area. His dedi-

cation to the community's well-being extended into his involvement with several civic organizations as well, including the Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, the National Naval Aviation Museum and his role as a founding member of Junior Achievement.

Madam Speaker, Northwest Florida will long remember the legacy of Theo Baars, Jr. His influence in the area will not only be seen but also felt on a daily basis as people travel through the area. My thoughts and prayers are with Marge, his wife of 30 years, and all his family. We will miss this man who helped make our world a better place.

RECOGNIZING IAN GIBSON OF VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding achievements of Ian Gibson of Virginia Beach, and to commend him on becoming a Congressional Award Gold Medalist. This recognition by the United States Congress is the highest honor bestowed upon America's youth. It serves as a testament to Ian's strength of character and commitment to our national values of dedication to public service and the cherished qualities of personal growth, initiative, and achievement, all of which are cornerstones of the Congressional Award.

Ian's volunteer efforts are tremendous, speaking very highly of him and his level of commitment to the community and to public service. Ian completed over 600 hours of Voluntary Public Service and earned the rank of Eagle Scout, working with Strawbridge Elementary School to provide school supplies to orphans in Bolivia and Russia, and 25 local children. In addition, he continues to be active within the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Tidewater Council, serving as Junior Assistant BSA Tidewater Council Venturing Leadership Award, and participating in the 2007 National OA Leadership and Conservation Summit at Indiana University.

Ian has devoted time and energy to excellence in the sports of baseball and football, honing his speed and endurance, and earning a selection as First Colonial High School's "Male Student Athlete of the Week." By maintaining his own physical well-being, he has balanced the challenges of public service with his own personal welfare and developed a well-rounded persona.

Ian has become a role model, not only for those young cub scouts he assists and tee-ball players he coaches, but also for the large community around him. Upon receiving the Congressional Medal, he joins a most elite group of our nation's youth who have set and achieved this very commendable goal. I am certain Ian's incredible accomplishments, dedication to service, and evident leadership talents will continue to speak highly of him, as they do now.

HONORING PADMA VELIGATI

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Padma Veligati of St. Joseph, Missouri. Padma is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Volunteerism.

When asked what Padma Veligati gives back to her community through volunteerism, answers vary, but the themes are the same. She is compassionate, committed, and her focus is always on those she serves. Padma has spent one day off each month for the past three years volunteering at the city's Social Service Board whose mission is to serve the health needs of those in poverty, lacking health insurance and not covered by Medicare or Medicaid. She takes on the most difficult gynecological cases, and her colleagues say that she has saved the lives of many women. Having grown up in a third-world country, Padma feels strongly about the lack of availability of medical services to certain segments of the population, especially considering how wealthy our nation is compared to the rest of the world.

Padma was recently admitted into the Masters in Public Health program at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. While Padma will have to give up volunteering in the short-term in order to balance her studies and a busy OB/GYN practice, her new degree will help her achieve her goal of working in international public health and impacting even more women in need.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Padma Veligati. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IN ANTICIPATION OF VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER NGUYEN'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S.

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, next Tuesday, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen will visit the White House. I sincerely hope that the President will seize this opportunity to be bold and make Vietnam's deplorable human rights record a point of focus. Any further cooperation between the U.S. and Vietnam should be contingent upon establishing benchmarks for improved human rights and increased religious freedom in Vietnam.

Vietnam's human rights record remains a disgrace despite its ascension to the World Trade Organization—a move that many believed would help liberalize the political as well as the economic situation. The citizens of Vietnam today remain unable to change their government. Last November, the government arrested and imprisoned two Vietnamese citizens and three foreign citizens for preparing

pamphlets which advocated democratic change in Vietnam. One of those five is an American citizen, Dr. Nguyen Quoc Quan, who continues to languish in prison despite numerous appeals by the U.S. government for his release.

According to the Human Rights Watch, since mid-2006, 40 peaceful activists have been arrested. They join the over 350 religious and political prisoners sentenced since 2001. Vietnam it not progressing, it is regressing. Government officials continue to harass religious groups.

Religious institutions are required to apply for permits; but many of these applications are ignored or denied leaving congregations without protection of the law and vulnerable to abuse. In the Central Highlands, provincial officials have been trained to deny medical, educational, financial and other government services to religious families. Local police beat a Protestant man in Phu Yen province for refusing to renounce his religion; he later died of internal injuries from the beating. The activities of the United Buddhist Church of Vietnam are actively banned.

I was disappointed when the State Department removed Vietnam from its list of Countries of Particular Concern in regard to religious freedom. I have asked the State Department that Vietnam be added back onto the list.

Trafficking in persons also remains a major problem. Vietnam was listed as a Tier Two country in the State Department's 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report. Poor women and teenage girls in rural areas remain most at risk of being trafficked, primarily for sexual exploitation.

I was very disappointed when I read of an exchange U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Michael Michalak had with journalists and he only mentioned human rights one time. I have written to Ambassador Michalak several times and urged him to make promoting human rights his top priority.

The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam should be an island of freedom and work to promote human liberty and dignity. Regrettably, it is not. Several of my colleagues have joined me in writing Ambassador Michalak and asking that he invite all Vietnamese dissidents to the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi on July 4—America's Independence Day. I look forward to his response.

I will continue speaking out for the Vietnamese people who want to see their government turn away from violence and repression, and embrace the universal principles of human rights and religious freedom.

RECOGNITION OF THE 145TH BIRTHDAY OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 145th birthday of my home State, West Virginia.

The most violent conflict in the history of our Nation, the Civil War, gave America a new definition of freedom, strengthened the role of the Federal Government, and ultimately reconciled our fractured Union. For West Vir-

ginians, the 1861–1865 conflict remains significant for another reason: Virginia was rendered in two, east and west, and a new State, West Virginia, was born.

This June 20th marks the 145th birthday of the State of West Virginia. I ask all West Virginians—the hardest working, most hospitable, and most patriotic people in the United States—to join me in celebrating how far our State has come.

West Virginians have long known their uniqueness and celebrated it. As the only State to be formed by seceding from its parent State, West Virginia blazed a trail of independence of mind and spirit in a country that was tearing itself apart. West Virginia is the only State to achieve Statehood by the proclamation of a President on the provision that West Virginia would support the gradual abolishment of slavery in its newly formed constitution. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia became the 35th State.

On this West Virginia Day, I reflect upon the treasures of our State—truly one of the most beautiful in the Nation. With its majestic mountains, rolling hills, awesome gorges and rivers, picturesque towns, hospitable people, and a “wild and wonderful” atmosphere, I thank God for the opportunity to call it home.

Many historic figures have lived and traveled through the Mountain State on their way to shaping the course of our Nation's history. Daniel Boone settled and lived in present day Kanawha County. Stonewall Jackson, the stalwart Civil War general, was born in Clarksburg and Pearl S. Buck—Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize winning author was born in Hillsboro, Pocahontas County.

Many modern-day heroes and stars also hail from the hills of West Virginia. Jennifer Garner, who received a Golden Globe for her performances on ABC's hit television drama “Alias,” is a Charleston native. Chuck Yeager, who broke the sound barrier and has used his influence to promote scholarship and development opportunities for the State, was born in Myra. The mining town of Coalwood, in McDowell County is now world-renown as the home of Homer Hickam, best-selling author of Rocket Boys, upon which the award-winning 1999 motion picture “October Sky” was based.

In addition to celebrities, both historical and modern, West Virginia's elected leaders have brought vision and opportunity to our State. Most notable, Senator ROBERT C. BYRD, the “Big Daddy” of West Virginia politics, is the longest serving Senator in history and has secured billions of dollars for the future of our State. He remains a force to be reckoned with in the Senate with his longevity and leadership.

Home to an abundance of natural resources, West Virginia has helped feed and power our Nation. West Virginia's “Coal Keeps the Lights On.” Our agricultural industry provides dairy, poultry, and feed crops for our State and beyond. The lumber industry makes use of the bountiful forests that cover 75 percent of our beautiful terrain.

Lastly the greatest gift and most precious resource our State has nurtured are West Virginians themselves—honest, hard-working people who are very the lifeblood of our State. Today West Virginians thank the Lord for our bountiful blessings, bound together in loyalty and love for our State as we remind ourselves that, yes—John Denver was right, West Virginia is truly almost Heaven.

Happy Birthday West Virginia.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SENATOR JOHNNY ISAKSON

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON as he honors our elders for their inspiration in our lives by honoring and remembering his own parents, Ed and Julia Isakson, at the 6th Annual Thanks Mom & Dad Celebration on June 20, 2008.

A loving son, Senator ISAKSON credits his parents for instilling in him his strong work ethic, his love of family and his respect for others. A good father in his own right, Senator ISAKSON's children credit him for teaching them through his example, not just words.

Senator ISAKSON has long championed the rights of older adults and supports programs and services that promote healthy living, employment services and other programs vital to both active and homebound older adults.

The Thanks Mom & Dad Fund® honors parents, grandparents and mentors by supporting programs and services for older adults, and each year asks someone in the community each year to honor their parents, grandparents or mentors. Senator ISAKSON was selected to honor his parents and is also being honored because he has inspired the lives of his children and so many others in the community.

I know well the power of his work in Georgia and here on Capitol Hill where he has demonstrated the ability to inspire members and staff alike to respond to the needs of the elderly.

I rise to honor Senator ISAKSON's contributions and to express my gratitude that he continues on in service on behalf of his constituents.

HONORING IRENE MOORE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19th, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Irene Moore of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Irene is a student at Benton High School and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Future Leader Award.

Irene is an academic leader who has challenged herself with rigorous classes and ranks in the top 10 percent. She is the editor and a chief writer of the school newspaper and was business manager for two years, as well as Vice President of her junior class and President of the senior class. Irene was one of the founding members of Students Everywhere Encourage Diversity (SEED), a group that promotes respect and tolerance among students. As a 3-year member of the Fellowship for Christian Athletes, she has helped the group grow to as many as 15 students. She is on the FCA Leadership Crew and often prepares the lesson for the meeting. Her school honors

include Citizen of the Quarter, National Honor Society, academic letter and pins, a drama award, and even Rookie of the Year for volleyball. Starting as a freshman, Irene joined activities such as volleyball, PTSA, choir, theater, JROTC, and peer helpers.

Her positive nature is cherished by her pastor: "As I have heard her speak in front of crowds at youth events and on mission trips to the Dominican Republic, I have heard her encourage many people, both her peers and the adults who work around her. She is a shining example of what teachers, leaders, and bosses want to have their students behave like. In many ways, she shows maturity beyond her years."

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Irene Moore. She is an outstanding member of our community and I wish her the best in her bright future. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

ON THE PASSING OF BRYAN
JOHNSTON

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Bryan Johnston—a man the capital city's daily newspaper, the Statesman Journal, referred to as "Salem's Mr. Fix-it." Bryan Johnston didn't just fill the needs of Salem, but of the entire state of Oregon as well.

He was, as the Statesman Journal so aptly put it, the "go-to guy": "Need someone to fill in as Willamette University president? Call on Bryan. Need someone to give a commencement address? Call on Bryan. Need someone to run a state agency? Call on Bryan. Need someone to lead a school bond-measure campaign? Call on Bryan. And much, much more."

Bryan's reason for getting up in the morning was to serve others: to raise a family; to love and support a wife; to bring his neighbors together; to achieve results; to help resolve issues and disputes.

Bryan had a deep and unabashed belief in public service.

He deeply believed that education was the key to a bright future. He was co-chair of the Salem Keizer School Construction Bond Steering Committee and the Pass the School Bond Committee. He knew that a family provided the backbone to a youngster's life and so worked for the Family Building Blocks Capital Campaign. He also knew that as a family served to nurture growing kids, so a community could serve to nurture local families. He served on the Salem Community Development Corporation and Chamber of Commerce as well as worked with Marion Polk Legal Aid and the Neighbor-to-Neighbor organization. Last, but certainly not least, Bryan Johnston's faith was important to him as was his service for his faith community.

Bryan knew how to work hard, work effectively, work with humor and work with warmth. He was kind at the right times and witty at other right times.

Mostly, I will remember Bryan for always looking forward and moving forward—no obstacle was too great and no odds were too long.

Bryan's passing comes as he was about to start his "dream job" as president of St. Martin's College outside Tacoma. But he did Oregon's "dream job" all along.

A poem by Hafiz that aptly describes Bryan's generosity:

Even after all this time
The sun never says to the earth,
"You owe me."

Look what happens with a love like that.
It lights up the whole world.

And Bryan lit up our world for his brief time in it—without expecting anything in return. We can all learn from Bryan's example and live to pay the debt forward.

He is survived by his wife of over 29 years, Anne, and their four children, and the thousands of Oregonians whose lives he touched through his service.

REGARDING THE INTRODUCTION
OF H.R. 6298, TO RESTRICT NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I was proud to join as an original cosponsor of H.R. 6298, restricting nuclear cooperation with Saudi Arabia, authored by Congressman ED MARKEY of Massachusetts and Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida. However, I do not believe Congress should permanently close the door on nuclear cooperation with any state, even a state that has large petro-carbon and other energy resources, provided that the country make, as part of any agreement providing for nuclear cooperation, permanent commitments that will enhance U.S. nonproliferation goals.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding potential nuclear cooperation could lead to the transfer of nuclear technology from the United States without such commitments on the part of the Saudis, and would otherwise not advance our nonproliferation goals.

The restrictions on nuclear cooperation set forth in H.R. 6298 can be modified by future legislation. Even after enactment, Congress should review any proposal by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for nuclear cooperation which contains unambiguous, permanent, enforceable and verifiable commitments by the Kingdom to prevent proliferation, including especially a binding commitment by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to never develop sensitive aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Nuclear cooperation is an important aspect of commercial relations between countries, and Congress must more effectively exercise its Constitutional authority in this area. The current mechanism for Congressional review of nuclear cooperation agreements laid out in Section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act does not serve us well in that regard. Currently, the Administration may negotiate an agreement and put it into force simply by laying it before the Congress for 90 continuous session days. Congress, if it disapproves of a proposed "123 Agreement" would have to pass a resolution of disapproval, and would have to override a

presumptive veto of such a resolution by a 2/3rds vote.

There is no reason for us to impose on Congress the requirement to achieve a supermajority in order to prevail in a dispute with the Executive Branch on an issue where Congress clearly has the Constitutional prerogative, namely international commerce (see Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3). I look forward to efforts to overhaul the Atomic Energy Act to require affirmative approval by Congress before a nuclear cooperation agreement can enter into force.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6063) to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Chairman, I rise today in support of the amendment to H.R. 6063 submitted by my good friend from Texas, Congressman NICK LAMPSON.

The Lampson amendment will enable NASA to meet its energy needs by clarifying language set forth in Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

Section 526 prohibits Federal agencies from purchasing alternative or synthetic fuels for mobility-related use other than for research or testing, unless the purchase contract specifies that the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions are less than that of conventional petroleum-based fuels.

The Lampson amendment will enable NASA to continue to contract for generally available fuels as long as the fuel is not predominately made from non-conventional sources. Without the certainty of this amendment, NASA may not have been able to procure fuels that may have been mixed with Canadian oil sands, no matter how small the mixture.

North American oil sands are vital to United States oil supplies. Oil sands represent approximately 5 percent of the total U.S. oil supply and are mixed in with fuel derived from other sources.

With the price of energy skyrocketing, our nation needs to diversify our fuel supplies, not restrict them. America should also encourage increased supplies of North American energy and decrease our dependence on oil from hostile countries.

I applaud Congressman LAMPSON's amendment and urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support it. Thank you.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NON-
NATIVE WILDLIFE INVASION
PREVENTION ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to protect the United

States from harm caused by invasive species. The bill, entitled the "Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act," constitutes a proactive approach to combating invasive wildlife species by preventing their entry at the border.

Currently there is no federal law prohibiting the importation of invasive species into the United States. Yet, nonnative plants and animals are known by scientists to have been introduced into ecosystems in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories. Invasive, nonnative species can harm the economy, human health, and the health of other animal species. Such harm ranges, for example, from depreciating farmland property values to the spreading of disease and loss of irrigation water. Additionally, collapse of buildings; competition with native animals; sport, game, and endangered species losses; habitat alteration; and other ecosystem disturbances; have resulted from the introduction of invasive species.

Scientists and economists estimate the cost of damages caused by invasive species in the United States to amount to over \$123 billion annually. The risks associated with the introduction and establishment of invasive species, and the costs of mitigation, will continue to rise concomitantly with the expansion of trade and increased speed and frequency of travel. The sheer volume of cargo shipped and exchanged worldwide continues to increase, and many communities across the United States are experiencing growth in tourism and in their visitor industries. These factors are reason alone to develop protocols and a system for assessing the risk of all nonnative wildlife species that could be imported or introduced into the United States.

Preventing the introduction of invasive species is a significant challenge and priority for many communities across the country, including my district, Guam. Invasive species, for example, threaten the biodiversity and the ecology of the Florida Everglades, the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and the Great Lakes, among other national environmental treasures in our country. On Guam, the brown tree snake has caused the extirpation of many native, endemic forest birds and lizards. The coqui tree frog and the coconut rhinoceros beetle are the latest species to have entered Guam. Although the brown tree snake was accidentally introduced through cargo shipments several decades ago, intentional introduction of invasive species today is something that can and should be controlled. The bill introduced today would protect citizens, the economy, and the environment from imported wildlife species that have the known potential to and that would likely harm our interests in the United States.

Absent a comprehensive federal law addressing the importation of nonnative species, the only protection provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981. This law authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate wildlife species considered "injurious" to humans and prohibit importation of such species into the country. The process, however, to designate a species as injurious can take four years on average, at which point in most cases harm has already been caused and realized.

The Nonnative Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act authorizes the establishment by regulation of a risk assessment process to control the importation of wildlife species. The bill adopts

a preventative approach by requiring the Secretary of the Interior to develop with public notice and public input a "green list" of species allowed to be imported and a "black list" preventing invasive species from entering the country. Prior to approving a species to be imported, the Secretary must evaluate its potential risk to humans, other animal species, and environmental health. Any imports of "black list" species will be subject to penalties under the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981. The Secretary, however, may permit importation of an animal of such other prohibited species for educational, scientific research, or accredited zoological or aquarium display purposes. Finally, import fees will be collected to cover the costs of the risk assessment process.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation and to strengthen the abilities of the federal government to more effectively manage and prevent the introduction and establishment of nonnative wildlife species.

HONORING CAROL ROEVER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Carol Roever of St. Joseph, Missouri. Carol is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Woman of Excellence Award for Women in the Workplace.

As an Associate Professor at MWSU, Carol Roever sets high expectations for her students and supports them to achieve these goals. Her students have won awards in national contests and have been selected to present their research at international conferences in the U.S., Finland, Denmark, Germany and Italy. Developing a course to introduce students to international business, Carol has taken more than 135 students to seven countries to participate in business seminars, learn from corporate leaders, and experience cultural differences.

Beyond the classroom, Carol has directed the Department of Business internship program for a number of years, placing over 500 students in internships across the U.S. In addition, over the last seven years, Carol has presented 13 papers at regional, national and international conferences. She recently spent a semester as a visiting professor at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2006, she was selected as Chairperson for the Department of Business at MWSU. Her dedication to her students and her outstanding teaching have earned her national recognition from professional organizations. She has also received awards from MWSU that acknowledge the quality and significance of her work. Carol is an active volunteer in St. Joseph, having served on Heartland Health boards for more than 12 years, with two years as Medical Center Board President. This year she presented three communication workshops for women in the YWCA shelter.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Carol Roever. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

IRAN AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, it's clear that those leading the government of Iran are not friends of the United States or of our friends, including Israel. It would be folly to think otherwise.

So, we are right to be concerned about the possibility that Iran could obtain nuclear weapons, and we should take seriously the report from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the possibility of their developing them is "a matter of serious concern."

But I think a recent editorial in the Colorado Springs Gazette was right to remind us that while Iran's actions "cannot help but arouse suspicion . . . This is hardly a reason to resume rattling sabers, as some Americans seem to desire" and that in fact "it may be a reason to take steps toward more direct talks with the theocratic regime."

Because I think its points deserve consideration, I am attaching the complete editorial for the information of our colleagues:

[From the Gazette, Colorado Springs, June 5, 2008]

AN OPENING FOR IRAN TALKS?

The latest report from the International Atomic Energy Agency indicates that while there is still no solid evidence that Iran is actively developing nuclear weapons, the possibility is still "a matter of serious concern." Iran is still playing cat-and-mouse with the IAEA in ways that cannot help but arouse suspicion.

This is hardly a reason to resume rattling sabers, as some Americans seem to desire. Indeed, it may be a reason to take steps toward more direct talks with the theocratic regime.

The fact that a rival to loose-lipped Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was overwhelmingly elected as speaker of the Iranian parliament suggests that it might be a good time to take preliminary steps toward resuming the official contact between Iran and the United States. Ali Larijani, who has been critical of Ahmadinejad because of persistent inflation and other economic problems, won by a vote of 323-31.

It is unthinkable that Larijani rolled up this majority without backing from Iran's supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, and the mullahs who really run the country. Most analysts interpret his victory as a signal that the mullahs are rethinking their support of Ahmadinejad.

If the United States is to remain involved in the region, it is wise to recognize that while Iran poses no direct threat to the United States, it is an important regional power. In such situations, as the Godfather understood, it is important to keep your friends close and your enemies closer.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM EVANS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor a great Philadelphian and a great American, the late Sam Evans.

He had firsthand experience as a victim of oppression. His mother was born before abolition, and he witnessed five lynchings before

he turned 9 years old. But, he refused to live his life as a victim. His childhood under Jim Crow spurred an adulthood spent as a champion of justice. He led protests against American Nazism and discrimination of all kinds. He was jailed for his activities, but he never stopped standing up for his beliefs. He went on to organize and lead the 43,000 Philadelphians who joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

Mr. Evans founded and led the American Foundation for Negro Affairs and the multi-ethnic Family of Leaders. He was a visionary and champion of the right to a decent education, decent housing and justice for all.

But, more than anything, Sam Evans was a friend and a mentor to anyone who walked through his door. He never refused anyone who sought the benefit of his wisdom and experience. I spent many hours learning from him myself. I am proud to call myself a follower of Sam Evans.

Sam is resting now. I know that he and his beloved Edna are swapping stories about Retha and the grandkids, great-grandkids and great-great-grandkids. We will miss you, Sam. But, after 105 years of hard work on this Earth, we will never feel that you are gone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Wednesday, June 18th.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos. 419, 420, 421, and 422.

RECOGNIZING THE 2008 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD GOLD MEDAL RECIPIENTS FROM MISSISSIPPI

HON. TRAVIS W. CHILDERS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. CHILDERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the 2008 Congressional Award Gold Medal from the state of Mississippi. I had the honor of meeting them at this morning's ceremony and it is with tremendous pride that I announce that so many young Americans from the great state of Mississippi have achieved such a distinction. Countless hours of community service by these dedicated young adults has left a tremendous impact on local communities across the state.

It is my pleasure to recognize Michelle Jade Gourley of Mathiston, Mississippi, Laura Kay Owen of Slatton, Mississippi, Brittany Simpson of New Albany, Mississippi, Iver O'Neal Vandiver II of Corinth, Mississippi, Nolan Webb of Water Valley, Mississippi, Jonathan Paul Whitlock of Iuka, Mississippi, Bradley Ragan Young of Corinth, Mississippi, Lynice Michelle Higgins of Hazlehurst, Mississippi,

Thomas Chadwick Kazery of Jackson, Mississippi, Tiffany Holder of Starkville, Mississippi, Amanda Layton of Magee, Mississippi, Holly Webb of Forrest, Mississippi, and Kaylee Keith of Laurel, Mississippi as recipients of the 2008 Congressional Award Gold Medal.

On behalf of the state of Mississippi, I am honored to offer our deepest appreciation to these young men and women for their selfless acts of service and self-discipline.

HONORING REVEREND JAMES CHILDS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend James Childs for a distinguished career in the ministry that has spanned 50 years. As Reverend Childs transitions from head pastor to his role as Senior Pastor of Pointe of Praise Family Life Center in Kingston New York, I would like to recognize and thank him for his tremendous leadership as one of our region's most respected and passionate men of faith. I also wish to congratulate him on the occasion of his 70th birthday, another significant milestone.

Raised by his grandparents, Jim graduated from Kingston High School and began his professional career with IBM. His drive, determination and unwavering faith helped him to advance from mail clerk to department manager. During the ensuing years, Jim served his country, married his lovely wife Dorothy, became a father, deepened his spirituality and found the strength to enroll in the Nyack Missionary College to pursue his devotion to God.

I have even had the distinct pleasure of watching as Reverend Childs has grown even beyond his eloquent sermons and commitment to ideals to become a man of action. His involvement in our community is extensive. He has worked tirelessly to address disparity in many segments of our society including housing, education, and healthcare. He has served on numerous boards and his ministries have assisted migrant workers, food pantries and the youth of our towns and neighborhoods. Reverend Childs has been a tremendous force, powered by his sense of deep commitment to being a living example of what he preaches.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to congratulate Reverend Childs and his family on his 50 years in the ministry. I offer my very best wishes to him and his wife Dorothy as they begin this new chapter in their lives, along with my deep appreciation for his inspiration, dedication and hard work for the past 50 years. As the new Senior Pastor of Pointe of Praise Family Life Center, I am confident Reverend Childs will continue to contribute in many ways to the church and community as a whole.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL LAYTON BRADLY CRASS

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of a brave young Hoosier who served his country honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Lance Corporal Layton Bradley Crass of Richmond, Indiana, one of four Marines who perished in the wake of a roadside bombing in southwestern Afghanistan's Farah Province on Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Lance Cpl. Crass served in G Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based in Twentynine Palms, California. He was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, where his unit was helping to train and mentor the Afghan national police.

The three Marine Corps values are honor, courage and commitment. They make up the bedrock of the character of each individual Marine. These values, handed down from generation to generation, have made the U.S. Marine Corps the most respected and revered fighting force on Earth. Lance Cpl. Crass personified these values and continued that proud tradition as a Rifleman who served his country bravely in combat.

In addition to the posthumous awards that he will receive because he died in the line of duty, Lance Cpl. Crass was the recipient of seven awards since he enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 2005. He earned ribbons for combat action and two sea service deployments, as well as campaign medals for Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Lance Cpl. Crass, and I wish to express my profound sadness to the community of Richmond, which is struggling to cope with the loss of a second young man in only a few short months. Just as Lance Cpl. Crass embodied the Marine motto—Semper Fidelis, "Always Faithful"—let us also be faithful to extend a helping hand to his family, friends and community, and remember them in our thoughts and prayers.

HONORING BECKY SNETHEN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Becky Snethen of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Becky is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Woman in Support Services.

Becky Snethen may have started out as a part-time scorekeeper for a basketball league at InterServ, but 25 years later she is the Agency Administrative Assistant, in charge of Human Resources, and helps manage the youth programs while the director is on leave. She keeps the Executive Director and Youth Director organized and informed, and organizes trips for youth groups to travel all over

the world to participate in Olympic competitions. Becky coordinates large local sporting events including Summer Jam Basketball, two Olympic Trials held in the Civic Arena, and many national and regional weightlifting meets.

Even though her workload is tremendous, she finds time every day to be in the youth center and be available to anyone who wants to talk because helping youth is her passion. Becky's excellence at work earned her the InterServ Warren Metcalf Award as the most valuable agency employee. Also, she has been recognized as one of the "20 People Who Count" by the St. Joseph NewsPress. Becky is dedicated not only to helping her co-workers, but also to making sure the center can be as helpful as possible to the community. She opened the building during a snow storm, shoveled the walks, works late, works evenings, comes in on weekends, and always assists with any event that is going on agency-wide.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Becky Snethen. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in the St. Joseph Community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ANNE CLARK MARTINDELL

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Anne Clark Martindell, former American Ambassador to New Zealand and New Jersey State Senator, who died last week at the age of 93. Her lifetime of public service is worth honoring here, because she was not only an outstanding public servant, a generous benefactor of good causes, and a talented and gracious woman, but she proved that it's never too late to show your mettle, to be your best self and to use your ability and drive to make the world a better place.

Born into a family of means in 1914, Anne Clark lived a comfortable and sheltered life. She attended private schools and entered Smith College in 1932. She took to higher education immediately and decided that she would go on to law school. When she told this to her father, who by the way was a prominent attorney who later became a Federal Judge, he demanded that she leave school, because "no man would want to marry an educated woman!"

Anne returned to Princeton, married George C. Scott, Jr. shortly thereafter and the couple had a daughter and two sons. This marriage ended in divorce and she later married Jackson Martindell, publisher of *Who's Who*. This marriage produced another son, Roger Martindell, who carries on the tradition of community service as a member of the Princeton Borough governing body, and is my friend and neighbor.

The dormant seed of her desire to make a difference, to do more, to participate in the betterment of the community, came alive—was fertilized—by her strong opposition to the conditions surrounding our involvement in the Vietnam War. When Anne Martindell's brother, the journalist Blair Clark, became Eugene McCarthy's campaign manager in 1968, she began to raise money for the campaign in

New Jersey and was selected as a delegate to the tumultuous 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago.

Anne Martindell liked to say she never did anything real until she was in her 50's. She was 54 years of age when she began her political career. On her return home from the convention, where she had been recognized as one with the ability to clearly articulate her strong opinions and to fearlessly champion what was, at that convention an unpopular point of view, she was asked to serve as Vice Chair of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee.

The (always) female Vice Chair of the party was considered at that time a mere figurehead, but that was not Anne Martindell's style. She is legendary for having arrived at a meeting of the male power brokers where she was told she wasn't welcome, because they used salty language that she wouldn't like. "I don't give a blank (here insert your favorite 4 letter word) what kind of language you use", she said, "I'm coming in."

Anne Martindell was asked to run for State Senate in 1973, in what had been traditionally a Republican district. She won the election, making her one of the first women to serve in New Jersey's upper house.

It was a very different world when Anne Martindell went to the New Jersey legislature (an example of which was that women were so little thought of in the Legislature, that there still were only men's rooms in both Chambers and caucus rooms—the women legislators used the public facilities). Although fathers did not still think higher education would spoil their daughters' chances at marriage, there was still a lot to be done to support and increase women's participation in community life. She worked on primarily women's issues, education, and the environment. She served as Chair of the Education Committee and a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee. As Chair of the Budget Subcommittee for Higher Education, she sponsored a law to increase loans for higher education. She wanted to make it more available to those who didn't have the means, but had the desire and thirst for more learning. She understood that very well.

She also continued to show her feisty side by introducing a resolution stating that it was the sense of the New Jersey Senate that enough evidence was available to institute impeachment of the President and that Congress ought to get on with it.

She was a Carter delegate to the 1976 Democratic National Convention and campaigned vigorously for him in New Jersey. After his election, she left her Senate seat and became director of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), part of the State Department's Agency for International Development. In 1979 she was nominated for the ambassadorship to New Zealand and Western Samoa and served in that capacity until 1981.

She was the first female ambassador to New Zealand and once again ran into some resistance, but her political instincts, coupled with grace and charm, endeared her to the people and she in turn treated them with respect and affection. It was in New Zealand that she met the man she called "the love of my life"—the New Zealand painter Sir Tossell Wollaston and they remained close until his death in 1998.

Last year, at the age of 92, she returned to Auckland, New Zealand to attend a meeting of the Partnership Forum and was greeted with

great warmth. The American Ambassador in New Zealand has hailed her this week as one whose legacy as Ambassador lives on in the hearts of the people.

But then, Anne Martindell was always doing extraordinary things. And she didn't like to leave things undone. So it was no surprise to her friends when a decade ago she re-enrolled at Smith College, attended classes, studied with students who could have been her great-grandchildren, and graduated in 2002 at the age of 87. In honor of her outstanding life and work, she got her undergraduate degree along with an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Poetic justice, don't you think?

Annie Martindell is mourned by her family: daughter, Margery Luther of Ann Arbor Michigan, sons, George C. Scott III of Richmond, Virginia; David C. Scott of Princeton, and Roger Martindell, 9 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and a brother, J. William Clark of Great Barrington Massachusetts. She is also mourned by her many friends in Princeton, and throughout New Jersey, and across the broad swath of lives she has touched.

Anne Martindell was on a book signing tour for her new book—the appropriate title of which is *Never Too Late*—when she was stricken with her last illness. It breaks my heart to think she will never get a chance to autograph my copy. I will miss her phone calls with good advice, her strong opinions on current events, and her ease of friendship. Anne Clark Martindell has taught us all a valuable lesson about opportunities and readiness to recognize a call to action whenever it appears in our lives. And it is never too late to take that message to heart.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ALVIN LADY JACKETS

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate the Alvin Lady Jackets softball team on becoming the first fourth seed softball team in Texas history to win the University Interscholastic League Championship.

One factor behind the Lady Jackets success was head coach Carla Newsom's determination to make sure her team found the silver lining in every seemingly dark cloud. For example, when the Lady Jackets lost the first game of a best of three series in the regional semi-final, Coach Newsom told the team to be thankful for the loss for two reasons. First, they could now wear their "dress white" uniforms in the next games; and second, and most importantly, they no longer had to eat spaghetti with meatballs for their pre-game meal.

The team adopted the Journey song "Don't Stop Believing" as their anthem. The girls sang the song before, during, and after the games throughout the playoffs. On the night of the final game for the State Championship, the first game of the evening lasted 15 long innings, delaying the start of the Lady Jackets' game by almost two hours. As they were waiting in their dugout for their time, the Lady

Jackets kept their sprits up by singing their anthem, much to the joy of their loyal fans who heard "Don't Stop Believing" resonating from the dugout.

Lady Jacket Amber Anderson was awarded the MVP award of the State tournament; was named the Texas High School Softball Player of the Year and was one of two Lady Jacket players, along with Alexis Joseph, named Texas Girls Coaches Association all State player of the year. Coach Newsom was named Texas Girls Coaches Association Coach of the Year 2008.

All graduating seniors on the Lady Jackets team are planning to continue their involvement in organized softball at the collegiate level. Madam Speaker, I again extend my congratulations to the players and coaches of the Lady Jackets and insert the Lady Jackets championship roster into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

2008 ALVIN LADY JACKETS

Jessica Savage, Amber Anderson, Vanessa Eng, Alexis Joseph, Tiffany Denham, Britni Wells, Kelsey Nichols, Megan Potts, Natalie Farias, Kelsi Kettler.

Megan Knippa, Meghan Gomez, Megan Garza, Amber Brooks, Adela Gomez, Maci Meyer, Nicole Powers, Lauren Denny, Alicia Smith.

Head Coach: Carla Newsom; varsity assistant: Kelly Bembry; assistant coaches: Jennifer Dominguez, Paula Tafelski; trainer: Eric Nuncio; manager: Brady Hudson.

Athletic Director: Mike Bass; Alvin High School Principal: Kevon Wells; Superintendent: Dr. Robby McGowen.

INTRODUCTION OF THE 21ST CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO ACCESSIBILITY ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act, along with my colleague Representative HEATHER WILSON (R-NM). Madam Speaker, telecommunications technologies have a proven ability to empower individuals with the necessary tools of the information age. These technological tools can animate the personal use of communications for work or enjoyment, but also impact health care delivery, educational opportunities, the prospects for employment, and job creation. The goal of the legislation is to establish new safeguards for disability access to ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind as technology changes and the United States migrates to the next generation of Internet-based and digital communication technologies.

As the story in today's Washington Post business section makes clear, the practical effect and use of many innovative services and high tech equipment in the marketplace can be diminished or eliminated for individuals with disabilities if accessibility isn't built-in, or factored into the design, of the product or service. This keeps the promise of the information age as just that—a promise. And it often means that to obtain accessible equipment, individuals with disabilities must pay significantly, and in many cases needlessly, more than if standards and accessibility were built in

or adopted earlier in the design process. The provisions of this bill will help to ensure that such accessibility is factored in and manufactured into products and services as a matter of course, which also will have the effect of reducing costs to consumers who rely on such services and products.

In summary, here is what the bill we are introducing today aims to do. First, Section 102 of the bill extends the Federal law that currently requires hearing aid compatibility on newly-manufactured and imported telephones, to comparable equipment used to provide IP-enabled communication service. The purpose of this section is to make sure that people with hearing loss have access to telephone devices used with advanced technologies, including cell phones or any other handsets used for Internet-based voice communications. (This section is not intended to extend to headsets or headphones used with computers.)

Section 103 of the bill, addressing relay services, clarifies that telecommunications relay services (TRS) are intended to ensure that people who have hearing or speech disabilities can use relay services to engage in functionally equivalent telephone communication with all other people, not just people without a hearing or speech disability. It revises Section 225 of the Communications Act of 1934, which has been interpreted at times (by the FCC) to authorize only relay services between people with disabilities and people without disabilities. This section also expands the relay service obligation to contribute to the Telecommunications Relay Services Fund to all providers of IP-enabled communication services that provide voice communication.

Sec. 104 of the legislation, designed to address access to Internet-based services and equipment, builds upon authority contained in Section 255 of the Communications Act of 1934, which generally requires telecommunications service providers, as well as interconnected VoIP providers and manufacturers, to make their services and equipment accessible to and usable by people with disabilities. This section creates new safeguards for Internet-based communications technologies (equipment, services and networks) to be accessible by people with disabilities, unless doing so would result in an undue burden. Where an undue burden would result, manufacturers and providers must make their equipment and services compatible with specialized equipment and services typically used by people with disabilities. (The term "undue burden" has the same meaning given it in the Americans with Disabilities Act.)

In addition, this section also contains measures to improve the accountability and enforcement of disability safeguards under Section 255 and the new Section 255A, including directives for new FCC complaint procedures, reporting obligations for industry and the FCC, the creation of a clearinghouse of information on accessible products and services by the U.S. Access Board and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and directives for enhanced outreach and education by the FCC and NTIA.

Sec. 104 also clarifies that the transmission and receipt of text messages sent by radio to and from mobile wireless devices are telecommunications services, and therefore must comply with the accessibility obligations under Section 255 and the new accountability measures under Section 255B.

The bill also contains a modest section on universal service. This provision makes consumers with disabilities—as a distinct group—eligible to receive universal service support through two specific measures. First, it grants the FCC authority to designate broadband services needed for "phone communication" by people with disabilities as services eligible to receive support under the existing Lifeline and Linkup universal service programs. For example, this would include deaf individuals who are otherwise eligible for Lifeline and Linkup support, but who rely on Internet-based video relay services or point-to-point video for their telephone communications. Second, it grants authority to the FCC to designate programs that distribute specialized equipment used to make telecommunications and Internet-enabled communication services accessible to individuals who are deaf-blind, as eligible for universal service support. Such support, however, is capped at \$10 million per year.

Section 106 of the bill contains a specific requirement for real-time text support, to ensure that people with disabilities, especially individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or who have a speech disability, are able to communicate with others via text in an IP environment with the same reliability and interoperability as they receive via the public telephone network when using TTYs. A primary goal of this section is to ensure that individuals who rely on text to communicate have equal access to emergency services during and after the migration to a national IP-enabled emergency network.

Section 201 of the legislation directs the FCC to conduct three inquiries within 6 months of passage of the Act, and to report to Congress on the results of such inquiries within 1 year: (1) to identify formats and software needed to transmit, receive and display closed captioning and video programming provided via Internet-enabled services and digital wireless services, including ways to transmit televised emergency information that is accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired; and (2) to identify ways to make user interfaces (controls—e.g., turning these devices on and off, controlling volume and select programming) on television and other video programming devices—including the receipt, display, navigation and selection of programming—accessible to people who are blind or visually impaired, and (3) to identify ways to make video programming guides and menus (typically on-screen) accessible in real-time to people who cannot read those guides or menus.

Section 202 expands the scope of devices that must display closed captions under the Television Decoder Circuitry Act of 1990 from the present requirement of television sets with screens that are 13 inches or larger, to all video devices that receive or display video programming transmitted simultaneously with sound, including those that can receive or display programming carried over the Internet. The section also requires these devices to be able to transmit and deliver video descriptions. Video description is the provision of verbal descriptions of the on-screen visual elements of a show provided during natural pauses in dialogue.

The next section of the bill addresses video description and closed captioning. Section 203 reinstates the FCC's modest regulations on

video description. Those rules, originally promulgated in 2001, were struck down by a U.S. Court of Appeals for lack of FCC authority. This section also authorizes the FCC to promulgate additional rules to (1) ensure that video description services can be transmitted and provided over digital TV technologies, (2) require non-visual access to on-screen emergency warnings and similar televised information and (3) increase the amount of video description required. Finally, this section adds a definition for video programming to include programming distributed over the Internet to make clear that the existing closed captioning obligations (and future video description obligations) contained in Section 713 apply to video programming that is distributed or re-distributed over the Internet.

This section is also intended to ensure the continued accessibility of video programming to Americans with disabilities, as this programming migrates to the Internet. It further tasks the FCC to create captioning rules for three types of programming: (1) pre-produced programming that was previously captioned for television viewing, (2) live video programming, and (3) programming (first published or exhibited after the effective date of the FCC's regulations) provided by or generally considered to be comparable to programming provided by multichannel programming distributors.

Section 204 requires devices used to receive or display video programming, including devices used to receive and display Internet-based video programming, to be accessible by people with disabilities so that such individuals are able to access all functions of such devices (such as turning these devices on and off, controlling volume and select programming). The section contains requirements for (1) audio output where on-screen text menus are used to control video programming functions, and (2) a conspicuous means of accessing closed captioning and video description, including a button on remote controls and first level access to these accessibility features when made available through on-screen menus. The final section of the legislation requires multichannel video programming distributors to make their navigational programming guides accessible to people who cannot read the visual display, so that these individuals can make program selections.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with all of my House colleagues on this important legislative initiative in the coming weeks.

**HONORING PAMELA
SONNENMOSER**

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Pamela Sonnenmoser of Northwest Missouri. Pamela is active in the community through work and in her spare time and she has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Emerging Leader.

Pamela Sonnenmoser is a multi-talented individual as a floral designer, artist, journalist, and public speaker. She is also reaching out with Christian love and the desire to enrich the lives of others. Whether through daily inspira-

tional radio messages on our St. Joseph Christian radio or by speaking at retreats or seminars, she focuses on spiritual and/or personal and professional development of women. As a Certified Personality Trainer, Pamela helps women improve relationships with family, friends and coworkers and find their niche in the workplace by learning and developing the strengths of their temperament. Pamela is a contributing author to three books in the Christian non-fiction genre.

Her talents to train and guide others have been further recognized by her appointment to the training faculty of the Christian Leaders Authors and Speakers Services (CLASS). Her volunteer efforts include being a staff member at God's Mountain Youth Camp, speaking for church groups at no cost, organizing teen groups to feed the hungry of the inner city, and teaching creative writing workshops on poetry at the Atchison Public Library for home school groups.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Pamela Sonnenmoser. She has made an amazing impact on countless individuals in her community. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

**STATEMENT CONCERNING THE
VOTE ON HOUSE AMENDMENTS
TO THE SENATE-PASSED
VERSION OF H.R. 2642, THE SUP-
PLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
BILL**

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I voted for a provision that would provide funds for Iraq and Afghanistan when, under the rules governing the legislation, that funding would be tied with a specific mandate for an orderly redeployment of troops from Iraq.

Today, June 19th, I voted against providing funds for the conduct of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan when such funding was not linked to such a mandate.

**HONORING THE MEMORY OF
NORTH CAROLINA STATE TROOP-
ER DAVID SHAWN BLANTON, JR.**

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the memory of North Carolina State Trooper David Shawn Blanton, Jr. Trooper Blanton was a 2-year veteran of the North Carolina State Patrol and a member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

While performing a traffic stop in Canton, NC, on the evening of June 17th, 2008, Trooper Blanton was shot twice and killed in the line of duty. He was 24 years old.

Trooper Blanton gave the ultimate sacrifice to serve and protect our community. He showed true courage through his determination to uphold the law and keep our highways safe. He leaves behind his wife and one child.

I offer my sincere condolences to them and the rest of his family and friends. They are in my thoughts and prayers.

I would also like to offer my gratitude to the law enforcement officers of the Haywood County Sheriffs Office and the Canton Police Department who risked their lives to apprehend the man who shot Trooper Blanton and bring him to justice.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing remorse at to the passing of Trooper David Shawn Blanton, Jr. Trooper Blanton's life was an example of service for all of us to follow. I am grateful to his fellow State Troopers and all of North Carolina's law enforcement community for their dedication to keeping our communities safe every day.

COMMEMORATING JUNETEENTH

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and recognize Juneteenth as a pivotal moment in our nation's history when the last American slaves learned of their freedom and the legal practice of slavery in the United States officially ended.

On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger arrived with over 2,000 troops on Galveston Island to deliver the news of freedom and enforce the two-year-old Emancipation Proclamation. The news came in the aftermath of the deadliest war in American history and a nation fractured by loss and resentment. However, in the midst of social and political turmoil, a new opportunity for all people to share the quintessential American experience of freedom emerged. 90 years after gaining independence, our young nation took a crucial step toward finally ensuring that the value of freedom was not simply rhetorical, but a right to be given to all Americans.

Sadly, the legal abolishment of slavery has not guaranteed the legal abolishment of inequality and unequal representation. As we all know, it would be another century before African Americans were given the same rights as white Americans.

In the years after emancipation and Jim Crow, the United States has made serious improvements in drafting and implementing laws and policies that encourage equality. However, serious economic, health and educational disparities persist for many in the black community and other communities of color. These inequities threaten to exacerbate the division between those who have and those who do not.

Today, we are confronted with two contrasting images of black America that are really two sides of the same coin. The countless sacrifices and efforts of previous generations have made it possible for blacks and other minority groups to excel and break boundaries from our nation's classrooms to the space program. And, for the first time in our history, the idea of a black president is not simply a fantastic dream, but a serious hope and possibility.

Yet, in this same land and era of opportunity, black people across the socioeconomic spectrum have a lower life expectancy, higher instances of heart disease, greater rates of infant mortality and hypertension, and receive

overall inferior healthcare compared to whites. What's more, blacks are more likely to fall victim to a justice system that prioritizes punitive criminalization over rehabilitation. Our children are victims of inadequate educational systems and African Americans receive lower incomes than others in our country with similar experience. Lastly, HIV/AIDS, a disease that has taken the lives of millions of men, women and children around the world is most rampant in the black community with the majority of new infections occurring in young African American women.

So while America takes time to commemorate this historic day, we must also recognize that there is much more to be done both here and abroad. African Americans in this country know first hand the travesties of slavery. As such, we must lead the way for others to achieve their own freedom.

According to the International Labor Organization, between 12 and 27 million people are the victims of forced labor worldwide. The majority of these men, women and children come from the poor and rural parts of countries that are in the midst of war, unstable economies, and political conflict. Whether forcibly removed or lured by false promises of opportunity, millions of the most desperate and vulnerable populations of the world are forced to work without pay in the agricultural, textile, service and sex industries under the constant threat of violence or death.

Haiti was once hailed as one of the most profitable colonies in the Caribbean and was the first black led republic in modern history. Home to the most successful African slave rebellions in the Western Hemisphere, Haiti is now the poorest country in the Western hemisphere and is plagued by poverty, political unrest, hunger, disease and violence. Now, more than two hundred years after Haiti was declared a free republic, between 90,000 and 300,000 Haitian children alone are trafficked into areas where they are forced into slavery. Even right here in the U.S., despite our system of laws, an estimated 20,000 people are trafficked into our country from all over the world to provide unpaid labor and services.

The fact that our brothers and sisters to the south are enduring such conditions is unconscionable. We must support Haitians in their attempt to achieve sustainable development and restore dignity and socioeconomic stability to their proud nation. As the leader of the free world, we can and must do better to stop this and other injustices.

Historian and Columbia Professor, Manning Marable wrote, "Historical amnesia blocks the construction of potentially successful social movements." As we continue to fight for equality and justice in our communities and in Congress, we have a responsibility to ensure that our nation, particularly our young people, do not fall victim to historical amnesia.

Because so many years have passed, many forget or dismiss the role that slavery and the fight for emancipation and racial equality played in constructing the social fabric of this country. Thankfully, this problem is entirely remediable, and we can engender a new commitment to understanding our past to build a better future.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Juneteenth, I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in reflecting on how our country has evolved into a nation that understands the importance of protecting the rights, liberties and

privileges of all people. America has bettered itself by improving the lives of its citizens and people in the rest of the world. It is imperative that we continue our uniquely American tradition of fighting for equality and justice in our country and abroad.

HONORING BARBARA IDE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Barbara Ide of Saint Joseph, Missouri. Barbara has been chosen to receive the St. Joseph YWCA Women of Excellence Lifetime Achievement Award.

In 1969, Barbara Ide became involved in historic preservation to preserve the cityscape of St. Joseph. Among the many buildings she helped preserve were downtown St. Joseph's crown jewel—the Buchanan County Court House, the city founder's Robidoux Row, Patee Hall, Warehouse Row, and the Hall Street Historic District. Barbara first became involved in historic preservation when St. Joseph's Federal urban renewal program proposed demolishing over half of the historic downtown. The National Trust for Historic Preservation took notice of Barbara's efforts and in the early 1970s invited her to address its National Convention to present preservation lessons learned in St. Joseph. Her speech was later reprinted in a National Trust's publication.

After purchasing Robidoux Row, she developed and chaired the highly successful Robidoux Festival which ran for several years. As a founding board member and the first president of the not-for-profit St. Joseph Preservation, Inc., she established a revolving fund through historic property donations and attracted a membership of over 200.

In addition to preserving the historic cityscape of St. Joseph, Barbara has contributed to the city's social fabric. Moving to St. Joseph in 1948, she became an integral part of the community leading by example. Over the years, Barbara has served as an active member (often on the board or as president) of numerous organizations like the Runcie Club, PEO, St. Joseph Historical Society, the First Presbyterian Church, Questors, and the Junior League.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Barbara Ide. She has come to be one of the most outstanding members of our community and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL MICHAEL T. MOSELEY

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to express my appreciation to a fine public servant and military officer, former Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael T. Moseley who recently resigned on orders from the Secretary of Defense.

There are a few lingering questions regarding the scope and unfortunate timing of this unprecedented decision to dismiss both top Air Force leaders at the same time only days before the Government Accountability Office (GAO) was scheduled to issue its decision in the hotly contested \$40 billion tanker program. The dismissals also come during a time of war and great stresses on Air Force personnel. No one will argue that it is not within Secretary Gates' authority to take that drastic and unprecedented action even if some of us question whether or not it was really the right thing to do given the totality of circumstances. Every military and civilian officer knows that they serve at the pleasure of the President and that they stand to be dismissed for any reason whatsoever. As professional leaders, General Moseley and former Secretary Wynne accepted that fact.

Unfortunately, the entire record of their decades of public service, notable achievements, and personal sacrifices for our country, are at risk of being lost or pushed aside due to media focus of these recent headline-grabbing events. And I regret that a handful of individuals, including Members of Congress, may be tempted to seize upon Secretary Gates' action to somehow legitimize unrelated claims in areas of disagreement with these two Air Force leaders. That would be patently unfair and unjust, and I feel an obligation to remind us all of a few points.

With particular regard to General Michael T. Moseley, it would be hard to find a more competent and experienced Air Force Chief since the service's inception over 60 years ago. Having entered the Air Force in 1971, he rose quickly through the ranks and his competency as a top F-15 pilot led him to command responsibilities at the U.S. Air Force Fighter Weapons School. In addition to other command responsibilities in different parts of the world, General Moseley served as the combat Director of Operations for Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia. Like no other Air Force Chief in a generation, General Moseley demonstrated that he knew how to command air power during combat operations. Between 2001 and 2004, he served in combat, having commanded coalition air forces in Afghanistan and Iraq that employed greater precision and air-ground coordination than ever before. With advanced post graduate degrees as well, he is regarded by many as a military scholar and historian, which has given him a level of rounded perspective that has benefited the Air Force.

He served as both Vice-Chief and Chief of the Air Force during very tumultuous times in the Air Force. He became Vice Chief in 2004, and confronted with extremely challenging budget and personnel cuts posed by the Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR), and still additional cuts mandated by the Administration, General Moseley helped to steer the Air Force through some very tough times. In so doing, and to his great credit, he always put the airmen and their families first. He recognized that our Nation unwisely took a "holiday from history" in the 1990s by delaying and deferring aircraft modernization, and as a result, our pilots are having to fly aircraft that are on average nearly 40 years old. We have F-15's literally flying apart in the air due to age and corrosion. We have F-16s that are nearing the end of their service-life. We have 40-year-old tankers, and 50-year-old bombers.

We have third-world nations that are fielding fighters that are, or soon will be—peers to our fourth-generation fighters. At the same time, our Administration has not been as committed to recapitalizing our fighter fleet with the F-22 and F-35 in the numbers necessary to meet validated military requirements as it should be. The Nation has taken for granted our traditional air superiority. General Moseley was right to have pointed out these vulnerabilities.

We never know in advance where our next adversary will spring from and what the origins of conflict will be. We must be prepared and strong across the full spectrum of air based threats, from both asymmetric threats and resurgent adversarial nations. General Moseley understood this very well.

Even as military operations continue in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Air Force is called upon around-the-clock to undertake combat operations, and targeted air strikes, or to fly troops and cargo in and out of theatre, or provide intelligence platforms, and the list goes on and on.

Our ground forces have come to rely on our United States Air Force mainly because—they're so capable! That's no accident. General Moseley understood this, because he was there, actually commanding airmen in fighting operations!

It's because of visionary leaders like General Moseley that the Air Force is reliable. It takes almost 20 years to develop, test and field a new advanced weapons system like the F-22 and F-35. If we take more "holidays from history," then we leave our Nation and future generations at great risk of falling behind the technology curve.

In 1938, U.S. defense planners considered the venerable P-51 (Mustang) fighter aircraft too insignificant for full funding and production to replace the more vulnerable P-38 Lightning aircraft. Once World War II was underway, it took the U.S. a few years to ramp-up production of the P-51 in sufficient numbers so that it could be useful in Europe to establish air superiority against the Germans. Back then, we were able to recover the shortfall over a few years' time. In these modern times with technology development increasing at exponential rates throughout many third-world and hostile nations, we no longer have that luxury.

Just like we're learning with the sky-rocketing costs of oil and gasoline—even if we were to immediately increase U.S. domestic production of oil resources, you can't just turn the spigot on tomorrow and have the oil flow. It takes years to do that, just as it does in the weapons procurement world. General Moseley understood this and was it forceful and persuasive advocate for modernization. This advocacy is something which, though he was absolutely correct on the facts and merits—earned him criticism when he should have found support.

General Moseley was also forward-thinking in recognizing the seriousness of the military and national security implications posed by the growing cyber security threat. His leadership resulted in the launching of the Air Force's Cyber command initiative. More than any other military department or agency of the federal government, Moseley did more than just wring his hands about the threat. He took concrete actions to demonstrate that he recognized its seriousness. He should be commended for that vision. He oversaw the dramatically-successful and historic deployment

of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in combat, and also instituted training to help instill a "warrior ethos" through training in hand-to-hand combat, survival and evasion skills required by the types of conflicts demonstrated in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I am proud of General Moseley—that his sense of responsibility to the Air Force's overall mission led him to voice legitimate concerns on matters like the serious deficiencies in Aircraft Modernization with Congress, even at risk of his career. To me, that is real integrity. When we have hearings on the Armed Services Committee, what we're after is the real truth—unvarnished and unblinking. We're not looking for the sanitized version of the truth.

The Secretary of Defense cited a failure of leadership within the Air Force with regard to its nuclear mission. Those are, indeed, serious charges and certainly corrections within the Air Force as to procedures must continue to be made. But I want to point out that many of the systemic problems in the nuclear area mentioned in the Admiral's report are not General Moseley or Secretary Wynne's fault. The Department of Defense and the Administration share in the responsibility for the impacts of both Budget cuts and BRAC mandated targets of the past. Those cuts clearly de-funded and de-emphasized nuclear matters. Cuts in the ICBM modernization budgets and programs that were not necessarily the Air Force's preferred choice have also taken a toll in these recent incidents, and those budget cut impacts must also be acknowledged and corrected by this and future Secretaries if we are truly going to address shortfalls in nuclear surety matters. I know first-hand because during my six years in Congress, I have had to request that funding be added to the budget to cover documented shortfalls in Minuteman III modernization programs.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I want to conclude by thanking General Michael Moseley and Secretary Mike Wynne for their dedicated public service to our nation and our fighting men and women. From where I sit as a Member of the Armed Services Committee, I believe that both of these Air Force leaders can hold their heads high. I believe they are men of great personal integrity. I wish them both well in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of H. Res. 1237, a resolution recognizing the importance of the Juneteenth anniversary celebrations held nationwide on June 19th. On that date 145 years ago, Union forces led by General Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas, bringing news of the Confederate surrender and enforcing, after two-and-half long years, the Emancipation Proclamation. Americans across the country commemorate this day with celebrations, discussions, and family picnics. In my own state of New Jersey, Juneteenth is celebrated at churches, community centers, and family gath-

erings across the state. This day marks a time for people to come together, enjoy the company of friends and family, and reflect on the past. It is a time of somber tribute to the struggles of slavery conjoined with a cheerful and celebratory attitude towards the future and the opportunities afforded by that great proclamation.

I strongly support H. Res. 1237, which recognizes the significance of the Juneteenth anniversary and proclaims the sense of Congress that history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future. I rise to honor the celebration, and to honor the myriad contributions that African-Americans have made to American society and culture in the years before and since. African-Americans have honored this country with their service and dedication as inventors, teachers, artists, musicians, first responders, soldiers, doctors, and statesmen and countless other professions. They rose from the bonds of servitude and yet, facing discrimination at every step, have continued to persevere. The longevity of the Juneteenth celebration is an enduring testament to the strength of these Americans in the face of tremendous adversity and bears witness to the virtue of celebrating diversity.

I must also rise today to recognize the obstacles that still face us. Juneteenth evokes reflection on a dark chapter in our Nation's history, and reinforces that which we already know: the struggle for equality is far from over. The joyous celebration of the emancipation of the slaves of Galveston, followed by decades of inequality under Jim Crow, serves to remind us all of the need to remain committed to our original principles and the belief in liberty and justice for all. While our history has at times failed to live up to these founding ideals, it is important that we remember our past. So that we may better ourselves and our country, we must bear closely the lessons of history as we strive for progress.

Today, Juneteenth is the longest-running celebration of the end of slavery in the United States. Its durability alone illustrates its significance. For that reason, Madam Speaker, and for all the reasons above, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting H. Res. 1237.

HONORING CBIZ INSURANCE SERVICES

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc. of St. Joseph, Missouri. This business has been chosen to receive the YWCA Women of Excellence Award for Employer of Excellence.

CBIZ has been giving back to St. Joseph for 100 years by supporting nonprofits such as United Way, UCP, YWCA, YMCA, Sertoma, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts through volunteerism and fundraising. CBIZ is also involved in a "Dress for Success" initiative, which will help provide business attire to women trying to enter or advance in the business world. This program will include partnering with nonprofits that currently assist with clothing needs in our community.

On a national level, CBIZ supports achievement by women through the Women's Advantage program, which celebrates women business professionals inside and outside their organization. This program provides training by women for women in the areas of personal and professional communication, organization, and influence skills through focused leader-

ship, mentoring, and networking training. Currently 125 women in nine pilot locations participate in the program. Locally, the current Vice President has worked her way up from a clerical/filing position and has provided support and encouragement to several other women seeking advancement.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc. They are a tremendous asset to the St. Joseph community and I am honored to represent such a business in the United States Congress.